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APPEARANCES

Commissioners Present

Robert Weisenmiller, Chair
Karen Douglas
Janea Scott

CEC Staff Present

Al Alvarado, Staff Presenter
Kevin Barker
Clare Laufenberg Gallardo
Alana Mathews, Public Advisor

Joint Agency Participants

CA Independent Systems Operator

Stephen Berberich
Neil Millar, Staff Presenter

CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Michael Picker, President
Carla Peterman
Michel Florio
Liane Randolph
Brian Turner, Staff Presenter

US Bureau of Land Management

Jerry Perez

Agency Comments

Robert "Bob" Laurie, Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Public Comments

Carrie Bentley, Southwestern Power Group
Carl Zichella, NRDC
Steven Kelly, IEP
Bob Smith, TransCanyon
*Erica Brand, Nature Conservancy
*Neil Nadler, Alliance for Desert Conservation
*Rachel Gold

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P R O C E E D I N G S

NOVEMBER 2, 2015 10:03 a.m.

(The meeting begins with the Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDENT PICKER: Thank you. This is the second of our workshops on the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0. And just for those of you who have not been following it, we discovered that beginning to think about transmission needs early on in the process is very valuable, so while we know that we are not likely to see large scale procurement of renewables for several years, it's still timely to begin thinking about what happens in the next phase of development in the State of California's greenhouse gas and renewable energy goals.

So you joined us a couple of months ago where everybody was very excited about the idea of beginning this planning process. Today we'll talk a little bit about how we're going to do it, which is usually when people start to be less enthused. So with me are a range of the other key decision makers who eventually will have to deal with the outcomes of this process, so I'm going to let Bob Weisenmiller, the Chair of the

1 California Energy Commission and our host speak,
2 and then Steve Berberich from the California
3 Independent Systems Operator, and then all the
4 other parties who are here, including our new
5 friend, Jerry Perez, who is the new State
6 Director for the Bureau of Land Management.

7 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Good morning.
8 I'd like to thank everyone for being here and I
9 certainly welcome all my colleagues at the
10 various agencies. I mean, I think this packed
11 dais illustrates that at least in the area of
12 transmission it does take a village to make the
13 planning here and I think, again, it's a key part
14 of our infrastructure as we look forward to
15 implementing SB 350 and the Governor's Executive
16 Order. And so it's very important to start the
17 dialogue today.

18 This is obviously building off of an
19 earlier workshop and today's focus will be on a
20 lot of the presentations on how we're starting to
21 structure things. Steve?

22 MR. BERBERICH: Thank you, Chair
23 Weisenmiller and President Picker, I appreciate
24 your leadership on this RETI Initiative and I
25 appreciate being involved in this conversation.

1 Certainly it's going to take a lot of
2 collaboration to be able to get this off the
3 ground and make sure we're well-coordinated, and
4 I'm sure we'll do that. We're all committed to
5 doing that together.

6 We'll be looking -- the ISO is
7 responsible for transmission planning for much of
8 California and what we will be doing at some
9 point as we go through these portfolios, the
10 transmission planning associated with that,
11 trying to find the least cost, best options for
12 that. We will also, though, be collaborating
13 with the region to see if there are other
14 opportunities for transmission that could tie us
15 better together and that will be part of our
16 consideration as well.

17 So with that, Chair Weisenmiller or
18 President Picker, I'll turn it over to you.

19 MR. PEREZ: As mentioned, I'm the new
20 State Director for California Bureau of Land
21 Management and this is actually my third day on
22 the job, so I'm learning as we go. I'm looking
23 forward to working in good partnership with the
24 State and the Energy Commission and I'm excited
25 to be part of this panel and Board here today.

1 So thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, well
3 thank you. I'd like to join my colleagues up
4 here today in welcoming everyone here. There's
5 been a tremendous amount of interest in the RETI
6 2.0 process and I've heard from a lot of
7 stakeholders' interest, questions, a real desire
8 to participate. So, you know, we will see a
9 presentation today and have no doubt some
10 dialogue on it, and we're very interested in your
11 thoughts about how it can be most effective.

12 I've also had the opportunity to talk to
13 a number of agencies, California Department of
14 Fish and Wildlife and the other REAT agencies;
15 BLM of course is here, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service expressed a lot of interest in
17 participating. I think a lot of our core
18 interagency partnerships that we've built over
19 the years on the energy side and on the planning
20 side are going to be extremely valuable and
21 something we'll be able to leverage moving
22 forward.

23 So again, I welcome everyone and thank
24 you for being here.

25 COMMISSIONER RANDOLPH: I just wanted to

1 say thank you for being here. I missed the first
2 workshop, so I'm excited to roll up my sleeves
3 and get involved in this process. The level of
4 interagency coordination necessary is very high,
5 so it's nice to see that we're getting started
6 off on the right foot. Thanks.

7 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Good morning,
8 everyone. I just also wanted to say welcome to
9 our sister State and Federal agencies that are
10 here with us. I would really just echo what you
11 have already heard from folks here on the dais,
12 so I won't repeat any of that, but I do look
13 forward to working with everyone in partnership
14 and also with all of you, our engaged
15 stakeholders. So I'm looking forward to today.

16 COMMISSIONER PETERMAN: Good morning.
17 Carla Peterman with the California Public
18 Utilities Commission. Good to see you all again.
19 I just want to echo my thanks to you all for
20 participating, as well as to the staff who have
21 worked hard in the last few weeks to help us
22 think about an agenda and just a general way to
23 structure this conversation.

24 This is a conversation that requires all
25 of us, there are going to be a lot of questions

1 that will come out of it, and all of them will be
2 answered, but I look forward to the CPUC's
3 engagement. Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT PICKER: So we may be joined by
5 Commissioner Florio of the California Public
6 Utilities Commission as well, he actually was at
7 the CREPC Workshop, which is one of the
8 interstate planning bodies related to
9 transmission and renewables, so he had some
10 conversations on these topics with his colleagues
11 there.

12 Is there anybody here from GoBiz,
13 currently? I'll speak to that later, then.

14 So at this point I think we'll introduce
15 Brian Turner from the CPUC who is leading off the
16 staff presentation.

17 MR. TURNER: Thank you, President Picker.
18 Actually, I think Al is going to lead off with
19 reviewing the objectives and the comments that we
20 received since our last workshop.

21 PRESIDENT PICKER: Thank you.

22 MR. ALVARADO: Good morning. My name is
23 Al Alvarado and I'm with the California Energy
24 Commission. Joined with me today at the table is
25 Brian Turner, as was introduced, from the Public

1 Utilities Commission, and Neil Millar with the
2 California Independent System Operator.

3 As already indicated, we did hold a kick-
4 off workshop back on September 10th when we
5 introduced the RETI 2.0 process and we explained
6 the reasons for the initiative and why it was
7 established.

8 For context, Governor Brown's Executive
9 Order B-30-15 established an intermediate target
10 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40
11 percent below 1990's levels by 2030. To meet
12 these greenhouse gas reduction goals, we will
13 require moving towards a largely carbon-free
14 electricity system through energy efficiency,
15 renewable electricity, and increased coordination
16 of supply and demand across the Western Grid.

17 To that end, the Clean Energy and
18 Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 was signed on
19 October 7th, which increases the Renewable
20 Portfolio Standard to at least 50 percent of
21 retail sales by 2030 and doubling the energy
22 efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas
23 end users by 2030.

24 To meet these policy goals, we expect
25 that new investments in the State's electric

1 transmission system will likely be necessary.
2 The Energy Commission, the Public Utilities
3 Commission, and the California ISO recognize that
4 better planning and coordination across the State
5 and the West will be required for evaluating
6 energy infrastructure requirements. So to
7 facilitate the electric transmission coordination
8 and planning, the RETI 2.0 Initiative was
9 introduced back in September.

10 The objective for today's workshop is to
11 cover the RETI 2.0 objectives. The main
12 objective and purpose is to have an open,
13 transparent, science-based stakeholder planning
14 process to help identify the analytical issues
15 needed to meet the State's GHG and Renewable
16 Energy Goals.

17 RETI 2.0 is not a regulatory proceeding
18 in itself; rather, it is intended as an effort to
19 bring stakeholders together to examine strategies
20 to help reach the State's ambitious 2030 energy
21 and environmental goals.

22 The insights and recommendations that are
23 developed through the RETI process will help
24 frame and inform the future energy infrastructure
25 planning and regulatory proceedings. The

1 stakeholder process will help the agencies
2 explore combinations of renewable generation
3 resources in California and through the west.
4 The stakeholders can also help to identify the
5 critical land use and environmental constraints
6 that need to be considered for developing the
7 energy infrastructure.

8 Another objective of the RETI process is
9 to improve our understanding of the transmission
10 implications when considering the opportunities
11 to develop renewable energy resources. So the
12 stakeholder process to that end will also help
13 the planning process for identifying the least
14 regrets transmission investments which are the
15 investments that would provide the most
16 environmental, economic, and community benefits.

17 As stated, we did have the introductory
18 kick-off workshop on September 10th. At this
19 workshop, we did receive public comments and we
20 also received 23 sets of written comments to the
21 RETI process.

22 Just to highlight, out of all these
23 comments, we tried to organize these in general
24 themes. The first theme, which is the process,
25 stakeholders are encouraging a robust and

1 transparent stakeholder process. Stakeholders
2 also indicated that a roadmap that clearly
3 defines purpose objectives, deliverables
4 schedule, and due dates is necessary as we
5 proceed.

6 Stakeholders also indicated that we
7 should closely coordinate and build upon existing
8 related efforts already underway.

9 For the scope comments that we received,
10 some comments included a request that we consider
11 a longer planning horizon of at least 20 years or
12 longer. RETI 2.0 should also take a fresh look
13 at the best fit geographic and technological
14 diversity.

15 For the next theme, support of specific
16 geographic regions, there are several geographic
17 areas that were identified to be considered for
18 resource development, the first was in the San
19 Joaquin Valley noting that the San Joaquin Valley
20 has largely been left behind in the California
21 clean energy revolution.

22 The second area for development that was
23 submitted in the comments is in Imperial Valley
24 and Salton Sea, since geothermal facilities
25 provide grid stabilization services and may

1 provide important co-benefits as the State works
2 to address the impacts of the shrinking Salton
3 Sea.

4 There were also comments trying to ensure
5 that we do consider the regional nature of RETI
6 2.0, which means including the rest of the
7 Publicly-Owned Utilities and Balancing
8 Authorities other than the California ISO. If
9 PacifiCorp does join the ISO as a participating
10 transmission owner, California's policy goals
11 should evolve to reflect and be applicable to the
12 expanded territory. And if PacifiCorp does not
13 join, the expanding energy imbalance market will
14 still drive the need for RETI 2.0 to encompass
15 other states.

16 On the use of existing transmission
17 infrastructure and rights of way, one comment I'd
18 encourage that we should consider is the cost of
19 new transmission and look to optimize the
20 existing infrastructure when possible.

21 And the last set of comments focused on
22 the RPS Calculator improvements needed for the
23 RETI 2.0, the RPS Calculator that is used at the
24 California Public Utilities Commission for their
25 planning proceedings. Some comments asked that

1 the RPS Portfolio should consider an outlying
2 year of 2030 to correspond with a set of
3 scenarios developed in the RETI 2.0. And, given
4 the very long term nature of transmission
5 planning, a prudent transmission plan should be
6 resilient enough to accommodate any changes in
7 procurement and need for a reasonable range of
8 future generation scenarios.

9 With that, we would just like to
10 encourage all stakeholders to provide any
11 comments and our next step, Mr. Turner will
12 provide an overview of our organizational
13 structure and a high level coverage of the work
14 plan.

15 PRESIDENT PICKER: Do we want to take a
16 couple seconds for questions from the folks at
17 the dais before we move on? So we'll start down
18 at that end.

19 Do we have any sense --

20 MR. BERBERICH: If I could just reframe
21 just a little about what you said if PacifiCorp
22 is to join the ISO as a PTO, we will have to be
23 respectful of the state policy objectives in all
24 those states, as opposed to California policies
25 into those states. And same thing with EIM, I

1 think, too.

2 PRESIDENT PICKER: Do we have any clear
3 sense at this point what the constraints are at
4 the existing interconnections outside of
5 California, into California, for more large
6 volumes of renewable energy resources? That
7 seems like it would be a useful piece of
8 information to be able to present to people so
9 it's not simply just transmission from resources
10 within California or transmission from resources
11 to those points of interconnection in places like
12 Blythe or Henderson. But it's also then from
13 those points of interconnection to the demand
14 centers. And I get unclear responses, it seems
15 like that would be a useful piece of information
16 to begin to pin down for people to start to think
17 about this because it starts to shape some of the
18 future needs.

19 MR. MILLAR: Do you want us to respond to
20 that?

21 MR. BERBERICH: Yeah, Neil, why don't you
22 say a few words about capacity that might be
23 available on the interties coming into
24 California, maybe starting from the north and
25 working your way to the southwest?

1 MR. MILLAR: Thank you. First off, yes,
2 the initiative -- we have more slide detail on
3 this later, but the initiative's purpose is
4 intended to look at both the in-state and out-of-
5 state implications of renewable generation
6 developing inside the state and outside. We do
7 have preliminary information that we've been
8 developing through this year's transmission
9 planning cycle that we'll be making more
10 information, the most current available
11 information, public in the January timeframe when
12 the study work is wrapped up. So that is
13 probably the first time I'd be wanting to quote
14 some numbers on available capacity.

15 We will have to take into account, as
16 well, any state policy direction on whether we
17 move forward with more deliverable resources for
18 resource adequacy purposes, or if we shift to
19 more of a purely energy-focused basis. So
20 there's some very interesting items there that
21 we're going to have to have some good discussion
22 on as we go through the process.

23 We are expecting, though, that some of
24 these resources will require both out-of-state
25 development, as well as perhaps upgrades inside

1 the state to get from the point of entry to our
2 load centers.

3 MR. TURNER: Okay, thanks. Then I'll
4 hold off any further questions until we get later
5 into the presentation.

6 MR. MILLAR: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. TURNER: Okay, I think we're going to
8 hit how or at least where we're going to approach
9 those questions here momentarily.

10 So this is what we've come up with
11 regarding those organizational objectives that Al
12 went over, as well as the comments we've received
13 and the direction from leadership.

14 This is just a chart summarizing the
15 information and then I'll go into a little bit
16 more detail on first the brown boxes which is
17 basically the organizational leadership and
18 management structure, and then on the blue boxes
19 which is really the work streams that we'll be
20 taking on over the next ten months or so. So
21 next slide.

22 So this describes those brown boxes you
23 just saw. The executive leadership of the
24 project is, as you can see, primarily it's the
25 President of the CPUC, the Chair of the Energy

1 Commission, and the Executive Director of the
2 ISO, as well as the Natural Resources Agency and
3 our BLM partners, to provide the leadership of
4 the overall project and the decision making to
5 drive us to a timely completion because this is
6 trying to get some insights in a relatively short
7 period of time.

8 The second box that you saw off to the
9 side there was the Partner Agency Coordinating
10 Group, this really is the box to denote all the
11 many partners that we hope to work with on the
12 project. These are agencies that have some kind
13 of planning or permitting authority over the
14 project and that we hope will both inform what we
15 do so that it serves their needs and will use the
16 kind of insights that we're generating from the
17 stakeholder discussions.

18 In addition to the sponsoring agencies
19 that you see up here, as Commissioner Douglas
20 indicated, we hope to see -- we will see --
21 participation from other State and Federal
22 Wildlife and Land Use Management agencies, State
23 and Federal energy agencies such as the
24 Department of Energy, the Power Marketing
25 Associations, local governments like Counties,

1 Municipal Utilities, Transmission Operators, and
2 at least some representatives from our Regional
3 Partners, other State Commissions, or Energy
4 Advisors, to other State Governors, who will
5 advise us on their energy policies and needs.
6 And the goal is to help shape the RETI 2.0
7 project, make it as useful as possible for their
8 planning and permitting.

9 The last box that you saw there is the
10 Management group, the day-to-day management of
11 the project, and you're pretty much looking at
12 them. We will add other representatives from
13 Natural Resources Agency, or other partner
14 agencies as necessary. And we're likely to add
15 facilitation and technical support to the project
16 to help move it along again in a timely manner.

17 So that's the basic management structure
18 we've proposed moving forward with. In the next
19 slide, we're going to talk about some of those
20 blue boxes that you saw, and these are the work
21 streams that we envision are necessary to
22 complete the project. First, we'll talk about
23 two of the technical groups that will advise the
24 project overall, and then we'll talk about the
25 plenary project where it all comes together.

1 First, Al.

2 MR. ALVARADO: For the Environmental and
3 Land Use Technical Group, this group will be led
4 by the Energy Commission in close coordination
5 with the Renewable Energy Action Team Agencies,
6 local governments, Tribes, and other agencies
7 with relevant information and land use expertise.

8 The goals and objectives of this
9 technical group is to assist the RETI 2.0
10 participants in assessing the environmental and
11 land use considerations related to possible
12 locations for renewable energy development in
13 both California and the rest of the Western
14 Region.

15 Over the last several years, California
16 has engaged in large-scale landscape planning to
17 conserve natural resources to evaluate
18 environmental values in order to facilitate the
19 timely permitting of renewable resource projects
20 and the associated transmission infrastructure in
21 appropriate areas. So this group will build off
22 the previous planning efforts and expand the
23 analysis to identify the information needed to
24 consider relevant land use issues.

25 For the deliverables and the methodology

1 of this technical working group, the Energy
2 Commission will be holding a series of workshops
3 to facilitate stakeholder participation in this
4 process. The group will continue to assemble and
5 vet the best available statewide data on the
6 resource potential, environmental sensitivities,
7 and land use designations in a way that's
8 transparent, size-based, and user-friendly.

9 The group will also gather existing data
10 from outside of California to support a unified
11 west-wide approach to review the environmental
12 land use issues and identify the renewable and
13 transmission opportunities and constraints.

14 So for this group, we do invite
15 stakeholders to participate in this technical
16 group and, in an effort to bring any available
17 environmental information and decision
18 methodologies to help us identify the
19 environmental and land use sensitivities. And
20 this information will also help us to identify
21 the areas for renewable energy development and
22 the associated infrastructure needs. So next, I
23 will pass it on to you, Neil.

24 MR. MILLAR: Thank you. So the
25 Transmission Technical Input Group, the primary

1 focus of this group is to collect the necessary
2 information to better inform the resource
3 discussion. The purpose is not to run and
4 separate planning discussion or transmission
5 planning discussion in particular, but to ensure
6 that the transmission implications of accessing
7 good resources, either inside or outside of the
8 state, are properly informed with both the
9 impacts, as well as the cost within some
10 reasonable cost estimate of what it would take to
11 access those resources.

12 So focusing on that, if I could have the
13 next slide, please? Really, we see three main
14 deliverables. Job 1 will be, however, populating
15 the team itself. We'll be looking to the other
16 Balancing Authority areas to support this effort
17 in focusing on the in-state participation and
18 then reaching more broadly to collect input;
19 then, looking more broadly to collect information
20 on potential out-of-state development that could
21 help access other valued resources.

22 (Commissioner Michel Florio arrives and
23 takes a seat at Dais at 10:37 a.m.)

24 MR. MILLAR: The main deliverables are
25 the capabilities of the system as it already

1 exists and is being planned as part of reaching
2 the 33 percent RPS, as well as looking beyond at
3 what additional reinforcements would be
4 necessary. As I mentioned, the second
5 deliverable would be to develop cost and
6 environmental or any other impact information
7 that would help inform that conversation, and the
8 third deliverable is to do a sweep of other
9 western reinforcements that could be of
10 assistance in accessing these resources.

11 We are expecting a series of workshops
12 first collecting the input available through the
13 existing planning entities, summarizing that
14 work, and then presenting that to the industry
15 for feedback as we move forward in developing
16 this material.

17 MR. TURNER: So, President Picker, I hope
18 that addresses some of your earlier questions
19 about transmission infrastructure. Neil will be
20 leading a group specifically to provide us with
21 expert input into what are the current
22 transmission capabilities and what are the
23 implications of the combinations of resources
24 we'll be looking at.

25 So if we could go on to the next slide,

1 I'll describe the Plenary Group, which is what
2 we've called where it all comes together; if
3 anybody has a better name, we're welcome to it,
4 but this is the best we've come up with so far.

5 This is where we'll pull together the
6 various elements that are necessary to construct
7 a combination of renewable resources, storage,
8 the transmission necessary to help meet the GHG
9 and renewables goals and from which we'll be able
10 to derive lessons learned, especially about
11 common elements, least regrets transmission
12 improvements that could be made to help us reach
13 those goals.

14 So some of those elements that we'll be
15 pulling together are the planning assumptions
16 and, to the extent possible, we plan to use the
17 existing planning processes from the ISO, the
18 PUC, and the CEC, especially, in determining
19 those, but we want to run through and use
20 existing demand analyses and other planning
21 assumptions to generate what kind of target we're
22 looking for in terms of quantitative renewable
23 goals, qualitative, as well as how those are used
24 to reach overall the Governor's Greenhouse Gas
25 Goals for 2030 that have been set.

1 We'll discuss qualitatively what kind of
2 resources and what kind of area can help us best
3 meet those goals. We're looking at how to
4 support a majority renewables grid utilizing the
5 kind of resource and geographic diversity that
6 can do so at lowest cost and greatest benefits.

7 We'll consider the resource potential in
8 various areas and handicap areas, according to
9 the environmental and land use feasibility. And
10 then we'll construct those combinations with the
11 assistance of our transmission technical team,
12 estimate what kind of infrastructure is necessary
13 to realize them. So next slide, please.

14 So most specifically, what will we be
15 going after here in terms of deliverables? The
16 first -- and this is our foundation work -- will
17 be to characterize the energy needs necessary to
18 get to the 2030 GHG goals, again, this is
19 including the Demand Forecasts, what our expected
20 state of the system with the non-renewable
21 aspects of the energy system in 2030, and
22 renewable energy targets specifically.

23 And then we will develop conceptual
24 combinations of resources, storage, transmission,
25 and investments. I'm using the word

1 "combinations" here to distinguish it clearly
2 from "portfolios" or "scenarios" because this is
3 a non-regulatory setting whereas it will be
4 informed by the "portfolios," which is the term
5 of art used in the Renewable Portfolio Standard
6 and will inform the Renewable Portfolio Standard,
7 it will not be generating RPS Portfolios, per se,
8 it will be generating combinations of resources.

9 And those are what we will use for the
10 final product, which will be the lessons learned
11 about what kind of areas show substantial
12 potential for meeting renewables goals with least
13 environmental impact and least transmission and
14 infrastructure cost. And that's our final
15 product. Next slide, please.

16 So that's the work streams that we're
17 anticipating. Let me just briefly touch the next
18 steps. I think as you heard from both my
19 discussion and my colleagues' there's two phases
20 here, the first is the foundational work, what
21 are the targets that we're shooting for based
22 upon reasonable planning assumptions about the
23 system, and the environmental sensitivities and
24 transmission needs corresponding to those, and
25 then putting together that information in these

1 resource and transmission combinations through
2 the summer of next year.

3 We will initiate the work streams
4 themselves in November and December. We're busy
5 scheduling those first workshops. Each of those
6 workshops will initiate the foundational work, as
7 well as lay out a series of steps through the
8 first quarter of 2016 to establish a foundational
9 work. And that's how we plan to get started,
10 ready to go. I'm ready for feedback or
11 questions.

12 PRESIDENT PICKER: Real quickly before we
13 get to questions, Commissioner Florio from the
14 California Public Utilities Commission has joined
15 us and do you have any remarks or comments you
16 want to make at this point?

17 COMMISSIONER FLORIO: I'll hold off.

18 PRESIDENT PICKER: Okay, great.

19 Questions?

20 COMMISSIONER PETERMAN: Thank you for the
21 presentation and the thinking on this. One
22 suggestion I would make is that, given the
23 importance of this being a statewide effort, on
24 the RETI 2.0 Plenary Group slide, it doesn't
25 mention data from Publicly-Owned Utilities, so I

1 would include that, as well.

2 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: No, that's a good
3 point. I think one of the things with three
4 agencies working together is the Energy
5 Commission tends to look statewide, you know, the
6 PUC tends to look at the Investor-Owned
7 Utilities, and the ISO tends to look at its
8 Balancing Authority. And again, this will be at
9 least statewide, we're certainly encouraging
10 participation by other states, but you know, it's
11 sort of that broader picture. So, yeah, we're
12 hoping for a lot of POU involvement.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I have a brief
14 comment or suggestion on the planning assumptions
15 discussion. You know, I think as Brian, you
16 referenced existing processes and, you know,
17 we've got the CEC Demand Forecasts, there are
18 processes through LTTP, and the RETI 2.0 process,
19 as you said, is not where those answers are
20 really adjudicated. I think of it -- and I'm
21 just putting this out there for discussion and I
22 know we'll hear a lot about it, I'm putting this
23 out there in part because in the DRECP, the
24 Desert Renewable Energy Planning, there was a lot
25 of interest in planning assumptions. And I think

1 there were some stakeholders who might have
2 thought that influencing the DRECP planning
3 assumption might influence overall need. And it
4 really I think is important to have a very strong
5 distinction between what is a sensible planning
6 assumption to use in a land use and environmental
7 and transmission planning exercise in order to
8 ensure that you're looking at the right range of
9 options and alternatives versus a planning
10 assumption that would come out of one of our more
11 adjudicative or regulatory processes. And so I
12 think Brian said that, but I wanted to really
13 emphasize that, to me, when you talk about
14 planning assumptions for this process, it's
15 really about what is a useful range of planning
16 assumptions that help us answer the question that
17 we're asking, not, you know, second guess the
18 exact right number because we won't be able to do
19 that.

20 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: No, I think
21 that's useful context first in the sense that we
22 all recognize uncertainty, so we're talking about
23 a range, and then the other is that this sort of
24 process can try to come up with general
25 reasonable numbers, I mean, ultimately people

1 will -- you know, and it probably will identify
2 some of the areas of controversy, and those areas
3 of controversy presumably will be litigated in
4 the appropriate forums, but that again we're
5 looking for some of the least regrets actions to
6 take at this stage and, again, not trying to get
7 out in front of the regulatory proceedings, but
8 we might serve some basis of narrowing the issues
9 that will ultimately have to be litigated in the
10 regulatory proceedings, or identifying the
11 precise issues that need to be litigated.

12 COMMISSIONER PETERMAN: Chair
13 Weisenmiller, I think that's a good comment. I
14 just wanted to echo that and say, though, that
15 being said, the same staff that are working on
16 the regulatory proceedings are also participating
17 in this process, and so there's not a 100 percent
18 disconnect, which is correct, and we want to be
19 informed by this process; but I think this
20 process here is getting going now whereas some of
21 our regulatory processes may take a little longer
22 as we get specific direction from ARB, etc. So
23 this is putting forward that conversation so that
24 we're well informed as we move forward to our
25 proceedings.

1 PRESIDENT PICKER: I actually have a
2 question for a couple of our colleagues up here,
3 which is for those of you who are CREPC, that's
4 Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Florio, there
5 was a lot of discussion over the regional events,
6 including energy imbalance market, potential for
7 a multi-state ISO, and I presume some comments on
8 this. Did you have anything you wanted to
9 observe or bring?

10 COMMISSIONER FLORIO: Well, we did have a
11 presentation at the CREPC meeting in San Diego
12 last week. I characterize the reaction as
13 somewhat stunned silence that nobody jumped up
14 and said, "Yes, we want to participate." And
15 nobody said it was a bad idea. I think in the
16 course of a very full day, it was just something
17 that people absorbed and we did provide a link to
18 the agenda for this meeting, and with Webinar and
19 call-in information. So hopefully we've got some
20 folks on the line from other states. But, you
21 know, we may have to do some more direct reaching
22 out in order to really get people engaged.
23 There's a lot going on in the region and I think
24 folks are feeling a little overwhelmed at the
25 moment.

1 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I would echo the
2 part about the direct reaching out. Commissioner
3 Florio and I, along with Brian and Neil and Grace
4 Anderson from our team did present a little bit
5 about what we're working on and I would also
6 agree that it was maybe a little bit of stunned
7 silence. But that also goes into the context of
8 California's broader goals, which is the way they
9 had characterized it was, "Oh, California has got
10 these ambitious goals, and how do we get there?"
11 And so we talked a little bit about the ambitious
12 goals, but we also tried to talk about this in a
13 way, especially with the EIM and all of the
14 regional work that's going on, this is in Clean
15 Air Act 11(D), this is a great way for us to all
16 be able to work together versus us looking for
17 other states to help California meet its
18 ambitious goals.

19 I did not get any follow-up, really,
20 discussion from folks, so I do think we'll need
21 to do some reaching out. I hope that they would
22 attend. I think all five of us mentioned the
23 fact that we had the agenda on the - it was
24 linked on the CREPC agenda, so that people would
25 be able to participate, and we also highlighted

1 since we knew they probably couldn't make trip
2 plans on Thursday to get here on Monday, that it
3 was going to be WebEx'd or you could listen in on
4 the phone so that you could do that from whatever
5 state you were in.

6 PRESIDENT PICKER: Steve?

7 MR. BERBERICH: Yeah, I'd echo a number
8 of those things. There's a lot of moving parts
9 in the Region, obviously California is working on
10 the compliance with that SB 350, and moving up
11 the curve on decarbonizing our own electric grid,
12 but in the region they have 111(D) compliance,
13 they have their own RPS standards they're trying
14 to pursue, and their own goals of decarbonizing
15 their grids, too. And I think it benefits all of
16 us if we work very collaboratively around this,
17 California has to have its goals, but the region
18 has to have its goals too. And we're going to
19 have to reach out to them, I think, on two levels
20 and I think we're prepared to do that, one is
21 sort of on the standard transmission planning
22 process with the utilities, the planning groups
23 in the region, but also with the policy makers
24 because I think the policy makers are going to
25 have to have input on what kind of renewable

1 opportunities they want to have both within the
2 region, or perhaps leveraging what California can
3 bring to bear, for instance, when we have times
4 of over-production of renewable resources. So I
5 think we need to have some close collaboration
6 with them and I think we have every intention of
7 doing that, but I do think we have to approach it
8 from a planning perspective and from a policy
9 making perspective, too.

10 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Yeah, so just
11 following up, so last week I was in Washington
12 for the Nuclear State Liaison Meeting and around
13 that I sandwiched in meetings with four of the
14 FERC Commissioners and with a number of officials
15 in DOE. And as part of those conversations,
16 particularly in DOE, I mentioned RETI 2.0 and the
17 opportunities for Department of Energy and its
18 sort of Transmission Corridor Group to
19 participate in this. Obviously most people in
20 D.C. have a very strong focus on between now and
21 next November, but in terms of looking at part of
22 what people want to accomplish, certainly there
23 was an interest in participating in this process,
24 and trying to identify. I indicated that Brian
25 would be following up with Patricia Hoffman and

1 others back there on sort of next steps.

2 PRESIDENT PICKER: So anything else? I
3 just have one last little bit to add here. So
4 the Governor early in his tenure as the Governor
5 for the second time commented extensively on the
6 long lead time it takes for siting and permitting
7 of transmission in California. And he did make
8 note of the fact that the standard timeline seems
9 to be about 84 months, and actually in his Clean
10 Energy Jobs Program called for reducing that to
11 36 months. He has not forgotten. And so the
12 Governor's Office of Business and Economic
13 Development has a series of Gamma teams where
14 they study regulatory efficiency and permitting
15 obstacles, and they will separately as a side
16 study, not as part of the stakeholder process or
17 any of our findings at this point, just use this
18 as a way to explore how it works here in the
19 State of California and where they might see
20 opportunities. And I've commented to them that
21 we've made a lot of progress in terms of
22 interagency work, but we also have not seen a lot
23 of projects come forward that will allow them to
24 really begin to think this thing through, so this
25 becomes a place where they can at least see the

1 various parties and the various stakeholders in
2 conversation and starting to think about this.
3 So I'm sure many of us will probably have
4 conversations with them along the way. But
5 again, it's not intended as part of this, it's a
6 companion piece, I just wanted to make note of
7 their interest.

8 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: No, and that's
9 very good. I think as some of us remember from
10 the ARRA project siting activity, I think it's
11 important to look overall at processes, you know,
12 you certainly helped us a lot on going through
13 ours in terms of looking at processes and trying
14 to see how to do consolidation there, or
15 efficiency, but at the same time I think the one
16 experience that I certainly gained from that and
17 certainly gave the speech to developers that you
18 can pick coming in through the door, or through
19 walls, and if you're smart about things and come
20 in through the doors, it's actually a lot faster
21 and easier, and more pleasant than running full
22 speed into walls continually. And that's
23 certainly a lesson going forward here on the
24 transmission projects, which are certainly more
25 difficult.

1 COMMISSIONER FLORIO: Just looking at the
2 PUC process for transmission CPCNs, it seems to
3 be pretty consistently the case that it's the
4 CEQA work that is the critical path, and really
5 everything else in the case can be done and
6 sitting on the shelf for months while we're
7 waiting for the CEQA. So, I mean, to the extent
8 that this process can get the data and
9 information and likely controversies highlighted
10 early and addressed, potentially that will make
11 the CEQA process at the PUC move much faster.
12 So, you know, I think that's an aspirational goal
13 for this process to kind of smooth that path,
14 that you identify the pitfalls early.

15 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Yeah. I think
16 we've also talked from time to time about trying
17 to do more of a comprehensive environmental
18 assessment of the transmission plan, and that
19 might help coming out of RETI 2.0 to include that
20 element. But again, I certainly look more to the
21 land use experts and attorneys and CEQA experts
22 on this topic.

23 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, I'll just
24 say briefly that I think there's a tremendous
25 amount of interest in this dialogue and in

1 getting the goal here, and I think what's really
2 needed to help us prioritize, help us identify
3 the areas that really seem to merit a lot of
4 attention based on the dialogue, and based on the
5 underlying data and information, that to a large
6 degree we already have, although we don't have
7 all of it, and we in particular need to engage in
8 some parts of the state where we haven't had
9 planning processes like this and with some
10 partners out of the state. But the ability to
11 assemble information, look at it with a broad set
12 of stakeholders, look at it between agencies, you
13 know, bring to bear some of the best analytical
14 tools and discussion and facilitation that we
15 have, I think will help us. And I think it will
16 help us go in eyes wide open with whatever
17 proposals seem to make the most sense and seem to
18 flow to the top. And that's not to say that a
19 line that is going to be relatively difficult to
20 permit becomes easy, but at the same time if you
21 understand why a particular line might be more
22 important than another one, it can certainly
23 focus the attention on what the obstacles are,
24 how to approach it, how important it may be, what
25 the benefit is on the other end, and I think that

1 kind of perspective can be helpful.

2 And in terms of the CEQA process itself,
3 as well, one of the real benefits that we get
4 from this kind of planning process is that,
5 rather than look at a project in isolation, we
6 have the context. And sometimes that's the
7 harder part to build is where does this fit in
8 the broader context. And so to the extent that
9 we're able to pull that together, I think it will
10 be very helpful.

11 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: I agree, although
12 again I think for the opponents, the directive is
13 really to be smart from the start, you know, I
14 think we all at least mentally had our list of
15 good projects the last time that, you know, could
16 have gotten the *Darwin Award* for taking
17 themselves out and, again, we want to avoid that
18 this time if possible.

19 COMMISSIONER FLORIO: One thing that I
20 hope we can take a look at and it will obviously
21 require a lot of help from outside of California
22 is the potential for bringing in wind from the
23 Rocky Mountain Area. There certainly seems to be
24 an abundance resource there and close to half a
25 dozen different proposals for the best way to get

1 that to California that involve different states,
2 even. And how the states in between that may not
3 see themselves as direct beneficiaries fit into
4 this will be an important consideration, as well.
5 My eyes have been opened just in recent weeks to
6 the number of different ways of bringing out-of-
7 state wind to California and there is a
8 remarkable range of different ideas, and most
9 likely some proponents of one approach or the
10 other are here in the audience or online.

11 And also there's been significant work
12 done at WECC by the Environmental Data Working
13 Group that is probably not as granular as the
14 DRECP, but a pretty significant body of work
15 that's been assembled. And hopefully we can
16 pretty seamlessly bring that data into this
17 process and give us a really solid head start on
18 assessing some of those alternatives.

19 PRESIDENT PICKER: That's one of the
20 challenges of this overall conversation. To the
21 extent that we have a policy directive and a
22 sense that there's value to acquiring resources
23 across a larger geographic region, and getting
24 that diversity, it becomes a real difficult task
25 for us to create a California forum and to do

1 anything but have high level discussions about
2 this. We don't control land use in those other
3 states, we certainly are not in the position of
4 telling folks in other states what to do, so
5 that's part of the unique difficulty we have is
6 we have to relate to the other states, we
7 probably have some strong statements about what
8 would work best for us here in California, and
9 those conversations won't even really ultimately
10 take place in this forum, although we have to
11 figure out what we want so we can participate
12 effectively in those conversations there. So not
13 a simple task.

14 Then, let's move to Agency comments. Do
15 we have a speakers list? So these are agencies
16 or these are --

17 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: One is an Agency.

18 PRESIDENT PICKER: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: So let's start
20 with Bob Laurie, Imperial Irrigation District.

21 MR. LAURIE: Chairman Weisenmiller,
22 President Picker, Honorable Commissioners and
23 guests, my name is Robert Laurie, General
24 Counsel's Office, Imperial Irrigation District.

25 IID has submitted written comments, thus

1 to very briefly summarize: the IID service
2 territory has vast renewable resources that are
3 available to help California achieve its long
4 term energy goals.

5 The IID is well-situated to deliver in-
6 state transmission which would minimize
7 environmental impacts, it would be compatible
8 with local land use planning, and can help reduce
9 greenhouse gas emissions.

10 The state and regional economies continue
11 to suffer. We believe that development of IID's
12 resources can help fix that. Thus, again in
13 brief summary, IID intends to be an active and
14 cooperative participant in the RETI 2.0 process.
15 Thank you very much for your time.

16 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you.
17 Looking for blue cards from any other public
18 agencies, either State or Federal, or for that
19 matter other states. So let's go to Southwest
20 Power Group. Carrie Bentley?

21 MS. BENTLEY: Good morning. I'm Carrie
22 Bentley from Resero Consulting and here on behalf
23 of Southwestern Power Group.

24 Southwestern Power Group is an
25 independent developer of utility-scale generation

1 and transmission in the Desert Southwest. They
2 are in the process of developing a high voltage
3 transmission project known as Sunzia that will
4 serve renewable energy, in particular wind
5 energy, to Arizona, New Mexico, and California
6 markets. We would like to thank the three
7 agencies for launching this transmission planning
8 initiative.

9 State renewable goals are more important
10 than ever and in that we need to coordinate
11 assumptions between agencies when comparing in-
12 state and out-of-state transmission projects. We
13 therefore would support the creation of a working
14 group or perhaps an additional objective in the
15 Plenary Group -- did I say that right, "Plenary
16 Group?" -- to compare the relative potential
17 associated benefits with renewable locations and
18 in and out of California.

19 We feel it's important to get a
20 consistent and transparent set of metrics, in
21 particular when used in the CPUC's RPS Calculator
22 and the ISO's Transmission Planning Project.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. Carl
25 Zichella.

1 MR. ZICHELLA: Good morning,
2 Commissioners, Director Perez, welcome, it's your
3 week on the job, jumping right in, good for you.
4 I'm Carl Zichella; I'm the Director of Western
5 Transmission for the Natural Resources Defense
6 Council. NRDC has been very active in this area
7 since the RETI 1.0. We've been working on
8 transmission development such as Commissioner
9 Florio was just referring to at WECC,
10 participating in the Environmental Data Working
11 Group there that put together a risk
12 categorization process for evaluating
13 transmission alternatives regionally in the west,
14 and that includes all of California, as well.

15 Those data are more granular, but I
16 should say they've been added to the database for
17 the San Joaquin Valley Project, so they're
18 already incorporated in data that is available
19 for use right here in California right now, in a
20 platform that we're quite familiar with that
21 we've been working on for the DRECP.

22 I wanted to just take a few minutes to
23 first of all thank everyone for this work. It's
24 actually really exciting to see this happening
25 right now. I think we've all noted the various

1 opportunities that we have with the Clean Power
2 Plan, with FERC Work Order 1000, Regional
3 Transmission Planning. The table is really set
4 and the broader regional context for this is
5 really where California can take major delivery
6 on meeting its goals. Our major goal on climate
7 mitigation is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
8 more broadly, not just our own, but as many other
9 people as we can persuade to help us as we
10 possibly can. This is something we've been
11 fairly successful at with all of the bills that
12 we've passed, including the most recent bill, SB
13 350, to help move forward and encourage others to
14 participate. So reaching out being more
15 ecumenical, if you will, about how we approach
16 procurement and planning is really an important
17 step. And I'm very excited to see that.

18 Very excited about the prospect of
19 regional markets and what they can mean for
20 helping us control the grid in a system that we
21 need to use to accomplish these things in a much
22 more coherent way. So kudos to the California
23 Independent System Operator for going down that
24 road and opening the door to really something
25 that is critical to our accomplishing our task.

1 On regional planning, I wanted to just
2 mention that there are a variety of other fora
3 that are going on contemporaneously. It's an
4 advantage for us; I should say NRDC and the team
5 that I work on, we've been looking on how we
6 could actually involve ourselves and where in
7 some of these forums to help leverage
8 California's leadership and also to influence the
9 outcomes there. WestConnect in FERC Order 1000
10 is one such place, it's one of the four major
11 planning groups in the Western Interconnection
12 for FERC Order 1000. All of our Publicly-Owned
13 Utilities are organizing for FERC Order 1000
14 compliance in WestConnect. And just so that you
15 know, NRDC is on the Management Committee for
16 WestConnect and we're very engaged there for that
17 reason, felt that it was a pivotal place for us
18 to be engaged. I know the ISO has been
19 coordinating with them, but it's an area of
20 opportunity as we develop some of our directional
21 work here in RETI 2.0 to try to inculcate those
22 findings, those goals, with the Regional planning
23 that's going on there.

24 The interstate planning is very difficult
25 as you all know. Every state has its own way of

1 approaching it. Some states have planning
2 authorities that are very one-stop-shopping kind
3 of places; others have county-by-county approvals
4 like Colorado. So this isn't going to be easy
5 for us, but trying to leverage the places where
6 people are coming together to look at the
7 regional system together is one way of
8 accomplishing that.

9 The work at WECC was mentioned, it's a
10 very important place to be active and the
11 California Energy Commission is very active
12 there. The ISO is very active there. NRDC and
13 other stakeholders from around the west with
14 common interests are active there, as well. And
15 I think that there are several areas we can
16 leverage the work going on. They look at the
17 expected transmission improvements over a decadal
18 and two decadal cycles along the lines of what
19 you heard in the comments for RETI 2.0, looking
20 out 20 years. Some of that is already being
21 done, there's a lot of sophisticated investment
22 that's been made on computer platforms and
23 modeling there. Study cases that are being run
24 right now, in fact, we've got several study cases
25 of great interest to California for our goals.

1 Coal plant retirement and deep renewable energy
2 penetration scenarios, looking across the Western
3 Interconnection at the grid and how that might be
4 most accomplished, where the problems might
5 arise. A lot of the very things we'd want to
6 look at in RETI 2.0 are being looked at and maybe
7 not in exactly the same lens that we would look
8 at them or formulate them for RETI 2.0, but
9 because there's a regular ongoing study cycle
10 there, we can propose studies that would be
11 exactly relevant to the analysis that we're
12 trying to make, in addition to taking advantage
13 of the studies that are presently ongoing. There
14 will be a new common case of transmission lines
15 that are released early next year, would be I
16 think good timing for what we're talking about
17 here as we begin the hard work of RETI 2.0, that
18 will look at the common cases essentially: what
19 do you expect will be built in the next decade?
20 And that will be sort of a basis of lines that
21 people use to analyze the effects on the
22 transmission system.

23 One comment I wanted to make regarding
24 CEQA, because I think this is important, we have
25 commented repeatedly about the need to do master

1 planning on a large scale looking at San Joaquin
2 Valley as a great example of this. If we're
3 looking at zones, especially here in California,
4 that we know we are going to want to add some new
5 zones, we know we have areas in the Valley that
6 are very conducive to meeting our energy needs in
7 the longer term, we might want to think about
8 frontloading the environmental review on these
9 zones and also on proposed transmission
10 alternatives that come up for them, and not
11 waiting until there's complete penetration of a
12 renewable energy zone before having every project
13 do its own environmental review, treating it more
14 like a Master Planned approach, like an
15 industrial park, for example, where you look on a
16 larger scale at the zone, find the right places
17 to locate projects of different types, and then
18 do any environmental reviews so people can come
19 in and develop them while the transmission is
20 being contemporaneously developed.

21 It is true, it takes longer to build
22 transmission, but we can do it a lot smarter than
23 we've been doing it and I think this is a great
24 opportunity to test how we might realign
25 transmission planning such as has been suggested

1 as part of the RPS Calculator proceeding at the
2 PUC, to think about using RETI 2.0 as a means of
3 a pilot project for bringing the agencies
4 together not just least regret, but most benefit.
5 I think that's the thing we want to look at, is
6 the best fit of least cost/best fit, and they do
7 match up pretty well, but we have to think about
8 them early because I think, as President Picker
9 said, we need to have a method to our madness in
10 doing it. And there are examples for us to look
11 at, very successful ways of approaching this,
12 usually on a smaller scale than what we're
13 talking about, but they're applicable on the
14 larger landscape level, too. I think I'll stop
15 there. Obviously, we plan to be very involved in
16 this process, you'll never get rid of us. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thanks. Welcome
19 back. Steven Kelly.

20 PRESIDENT PICKER: Just -- you might heed
21 Commissioner Weisenmiller's advice about doors
22 and not walls.

23 MR. KELLY: Good morning, Commissioners.
24 Steven Kelly, Policy Director for the Independent
25 Energy Producers Association.

1 We represent the non-utility-owned
2 electric generator developers and represent the
3 whole array of renewables, and I can assure you
4 my membership are interested in not only
5 developing in California, but across the WECC, so
6 it's a body that's very interested in this
7 development.

8 I want to start by just applauding a
9 couple themes that came out early on this thing
10 by President Picker, which is the need for the
11 early start. We strongly endorse that, we think
12 it's very important given the long timeframe for
13 developing infrastructure, whether it's
14 transmission or generation, to start early.

15 The open transparent stakeholder process
16 and the need to coordinate this with existing
17 proceedings, we think all of those are kind of
18 fundamental principles that will well serve this
19 process as we go forward.

20 To develop a roadmap which allows for
21 timely decision making and to identify where are
22 the walls that developers obviously should avoid;
23 if there are some that are hidden, we want those
24 to come out in this process because it's just a
25 waste of time and resources for people to

1 foolishly enter that world, and we've all seen
2 them in California if you've been here for a
3 while.

4 I do want to note a couple challenges,
5 though, that I think are important just to raise
6 and be mindful of as we develop this process, 1)
7 obviously balancing the complexity with the need
8 for transparency in the development of this
9 roadmap is something that you'll be teasing with
10 for a long time, but that is critical and I'll
11 just note that the multiple working groups, for
12 example, can create strains on stakeholders that
13 have limited resources, and it has the effect of
14 resulting in a decision process that can be
15 limited to those entities, few as they are, that
16 can be in all the places at all times. So we
17 want to be mindful of that and try to protect
18 against that skewing of information and inputs.

19 And then finally, the important
20 relationship of RETI 2.0 with the existing
21 processes, and I think Commissioner Douglas and
22 others have talked about this. At least from my
23 perspective, I think it's still a little unclear
24 exactly what this process does in relationship to
25 the ISO's TPP planning process, the LTTP, the RA,

1 the RPS, and all that other stuff, it sounds like
2 it's a frontloaded kind of information and
3 stakeholder process that results in inputs into
4 these other more adjudicatory processes. But I
5 think it's important to reemphasize that
6 continually as this unfolds so that stakeholders
7 can be mindful of that. From a stakeholder
8 perspective, the key issue is, where are the
9 decision points that are related to the planning
10 assumptions? Where are the decision points about
11 data inputs and so forth that are going to result
12 in the decisions ultimately at the various
13 regulatory agencies to authorize development,
14 infrastructure investment, and so forth? Those
15 are the keys that most stakeholders will be
16 asking and looking for and the extent to which
17 you can use this process to help that in
18 transparency would be very helpful, and I applaud
19 your work on this.

20 IEP is willing to assist on this process
21 as much as we can and look forward to working
22 with you during that process.

23 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Okay, thanks. I
24 was going to say, I think one might consider
25 Anza-Borrego State Park to be a walled zone, or a

1 no-touch zone as one thinks about these options,
2 but again, there are more authority souls that
3 are willing to take on the impossible. Oh, yeah,
4 as I've said, we've seen people do fairly stupid
5 things in siting processes and blow themselves up
6 and then blame everyone else. So we're trying to
7 basically encourage more thoughtful proposals
8 upfront.

9 I think that's all the blue cards we have
10 for people in the room. Anyone else in the room?
11 Please, come up. Identify yourself at the
12 podium. Again, if you want to speak, blue cards,
13 the Public Advisor is there.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Bob Smith with
15 TransCanyon. President, Chairman, Commissioners,
16 and Agency officials, at the introductory
17 workshop that we had, our President, Jason Smith,
18 introduced you to TransCanyon, an independent
19 transmission developer in the west, and gave you
20 our commitment to be involved and help in
21 regional transmission planning in the west, and
22 we certainly plan to go through with that
23 commitment. I think you have a good structure, a
24 good work plan, so we look forward in being
25 involved both on the environmental permitting

1 committee; our Environmental Siting Consultant,
2 Richard Stuhan is in the room and as you can see
3 with that bright blue shirt, he's very astute at
4 the stealth of maneuvering around through the
5 environment.

6 We also look forward to working in the
7 Technical Planning Group.

8 I do have two thoughts from what I heard
9 today and one concerns the timeframe of your
10 study. I've seen 2030 as sort of what I assume
11 is a target year out there, and while that might
12 sort of smell like 15 years out today, I think
13 you'll find by the time you get through this
14 process and anything actually comes out of the
15 ISO that's actionable by their Board, it may look
16 a lot more like 10 years. So you may want to
17 think about extending the timeframe of your study
18 to be able to look into if there's potentially
19 load growth beyond 2030, you may have reliability
20 issues, we've heard a lot about right sizing
21 projects. So you might want to think about
22 extending the timeframe of the study.

23 The other thought, I was really pleased
24 to hear acknowledgement of the need to do some
25 work on the permitting processes, both in terms

1 of streamlining, and I think what we would like
2 to see is a little more consistency and maybe
3 predictability of the result. And in addition to
4 just being able to execute projects, I think it's
5 very important in sort of the competitive
6 environment that we found ourselves in the last
7 couple of years with transmission development,
8 the ISO has put together an excellent process,
9 we've had some really good luck with projects
10 that have been competitively bid, but it's really
11 hard to put a cost cap on a bid, which is what
12 the ISO is preferring right now, when there's so
13 much of a risk and range of outcomes of the
14 permitting process.

15 So I applaud what you're going to do in
16 that area and just give you another sort of
17 motivation for continuing with those efforts.
18 With that, thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. So
20 again, no one else in the room. Let me see if
21 there's anyone on the phone.

22 MS. LAUFENBERG GALLARDO: We are asking
23 the members who are participating on the phone to
24 use the raised hand function and then we'll call
25 on you and we'll just unmute that one caller at a

1 time to avoid all the --

2 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Cacophony.

3 MS. LAUFENBERG GALLARDO: -- extra
4 static. So thank you so much.

5 MR. BARKER: So I've got one to read here
6 from online. This question comes from Dave
7 Bryant at CTC Global. "ACCC was developed back
8 in 2003 to address congested transmission lines
9 that were fettered due to thermal sag. While
10 this technology has high capacity, low sag
11 characteristics, it also offers electrical
12 resistance about 25 percent lower than
13 conventional conductors. The lower electrical
14 resistance serves to reduce line losses by 25 to
15 40 percent or more compared to any other
16 conductor of the same diameter and weight. It is
17 ideally suited to increased capacity and reduced
18 line losses.

19 Reducing line losses not only serves to
20 reduce fuel consumption and associated emissions,
21 it also frees up generation capacity that is
22 otherwise lost. It also improves the economic
23 viability of renewables. California needs to
24 leverage this technology, ACCC has already been
25 deployed in over 350 projects in 35 countries.

1 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: That's fine. Any
2 other?

3 MR. BARKER: So I don't have any other
4 raised hands. We do have folks on the phone, I
5 don't know if we have any comments from them. I
6 can unmute the phones, though.

7 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Actually, let's
8 go to the raised hands. If there are no raised
9 hands, then I think at this point let's go around
10 the dais and wrap up.

11 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Chair
12 Weisenmiller, if I could say one thing. I got a
13 couple emails from, well, I got one from Kim
14 Delfino at Defenders of Wildlife and one from
15 Laura Crane at Nature Conservancy, both saying
16 they were sick or had a sick child and would be
17 WebExing in, so I wonder if they might be on the
18 phone.

19 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: If they'd raise
20 their hands, I'd love to get their comments. So
21 certainly, again, a call or shout out to both of
22 them or anyone there who wants to speak, just
23 raise your hands and we'll do it.

24 MR. BARKER: Just to be clear, we do have
25 some calls in that -- okay, now I do have another

1 raised hand actually here. Yes. Four, good.

2 Erica, are you online? Can you hear me?

3 MS. BRAND: Hi. This is Erica Brand from
4 the Nature Conservancy and I'm one of the folks
5 with a sick kid today. So I'm the California
6 Energy Program Director for the Nature
7 Conservancy and I just have a couple of thoughts
8 to share based on what I have heard today.

9 We are optimistic that RETI 2.0 will
10 allow for reviewing potential tradeoffs between
11 the combinations, not the scenarios, that will
12 show a path forward that will allow California to
13 achieve multiple, including climate, clean
14 energy, and protection of natural resources.
15 We're also hopeful that RETI 2.0 will help
16 facilitate landscape-scale planning for energy
17 and conservation so we can achieve our 2030
18 Climate commitments and protect natural and
19 working lands.

20 I appreciate all of the information that
21 was presented about the workflow and the
22 processes, and I look forward to digging in a bit
23 more to watching the PowerPoint. There's a
24 couple of things I would comment on. I strongly
25 agree with the transparency, the stakeholder

1 involvement, and the agency coordination, as well
2 as the coordination with existing processes and
3 proceedings. I do think there's a bit more room
4 to develop clarity around the vision and the
5 questions that the working groups are seeking to
6 solve for, and so I look forward to submitting
7 written comments on that.

8 One thing I think from the presentation
9 that I would suggest is really the importance of
10 project management for this process, I think it's
11 going to be critical to the success of this
12 effort, especially in such a rapid planning
13 timeline, so I think that there needs to be a
14 clear investment in this project management to
15 effectively run the process, especially
16 considering all of the groups and the inputs that
17 will be involved, data identification, data
18 gathering, prioritization and creating the
19 combination.

20 So let's see, I think the last thing I
21 would add is that operability of the results of
22 RETI 2.0 are going to be really important, both
23 in transmission planning, but I'm hopeful that
24 the findings that are revealed through RETI 2.0
25 will be used by decision makers in both policy

1 and implementation of SB 350. And, for example,
2 if we find that it's possible to achieve these
3 higher renewable energy goals and protect natural
4 resources and drive investment, renewable energy
5 investments, to areas of least conflicts that we
6 think about how to use that both in policy and
7 implementation of SB 350 across the different
8 agencies so that we can truly achieve our 2030
9 climate commitments and protect natural and
10 working lands. And that's it. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. Let's
12 go to the next raised hand.

13 MR. BARKER: Neil Nadler, please make
14 your comments.

15 MR. NADLER: Good morning. My name is
16 Neil Nadler and I'm a member of the Alliance for
17 Desert Preservation. All of us here recognize
18 that we're on the brink of reinventing the power
19 system and all the members have said that today,
20 and we also agree with Chairman Weisenmiller's
21 statement, look for the doors and the walls.
22 This means recognizing that rooftop and
23 distributed generation can fill much of our
24 energy demand without the environmental
25 degradation and economic costs associated with

1 utility-scale and balance the additional
2 transmission that's needed and justified. New
3 technology innovations continue to abound such as
4 clear glass solar panels and printable films that
5 will allow many thousands of acres of window
6 space to be used to generate power and all the
7 while the economics of transmission continue to
8 skyrocket. Smart inverters, inexpensive battery
9 storage, and the establishment of an increasing
10 smart two-way grid are making it easier and cost-
11 effective as compared to utility-scale and the
12 thousands of miles of transmission. Accelerating
13 the wave of technological innovation must be
14 broadened to the RETI 2.0 organizational
15 structure and be reflected in the makeup of its
16 participants, not simply reflected as a minimal
17 and token amount, and not to exceed the old
18 paradigm of 15 percent of total demand. DG and
19 rooftop solar with battery storage are
20 significantly more efficient ways of electrifying
21 the transportation sector of the future energy
22 demand. There must also be a working subgroup
23 for Distributed Generation that provides
24 technological data and costs directly to the
25 Joint Agencies. We must also have active

1 representation at all levels of the RETI 2.0
2 structure, the people who live and work and
3 recreate in the California desert, the very
4 people who will have to pay for the direct price
5 of any influx of new transmission and utility-
6 scale generation fostered by the RETI 2.0 need
7 representation. Unless RETI harnesses and
8 encourages robust input from the people whose
9 lives it will be directly impacting, RETI 2.0
10 will be unable to appreciate the true
11 environment, social, and economic ramifications
12 of which it is being planned for. By bringing DG
13 into focus, its organizational structure, RETI
14 2.0 can become a bridge to a sustainable energy
15 future in which our human and natural communities
16 will continue to thrive. Thank you very much. I
17 appreciate the ability to present our views.

18 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. Who
19 is next?

20 MR. BARKER: Rachel, please state your
21 full name and organization. Go ahead.

22 MS. GOLD: Great, thank you. Hi, this is
23 Rachel Gold from the Large-Scale Solar
24 Association. Thank you for the opportunity to
25 weigh-in from the Web here and excited about this

1 next phase of RETI 2.0.

2 I just wanted to weigh in quickly and
3 echo Steven Kelly's comments from IEP and just
4 note that it's going to be really helpful to have
5 that continued kind of level setting of the goals
6 of this effort and how they're going to fit into
7 the existing proceedings, and the Regional
8 efforts, and that was mentioned I think by a
9 number of folks this morning, but thinking early
10 about how we want that information to flow and
11 what is the appropriate level and metrics for
12 that is going to be really helpful as we guide
13 our input in this process. And we're looking
14 forward to participating, and thanks to all of
15 you for your efforts so far.

16 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. Who
17 is next?

18 MR. BARKER: That's all the hands raised.
19 We do have some call-in users that aren't
20 associated with an online -- that aren't linked
21 in the Web. Should I unmute the --?

22 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Yeah, let's first
23 say anyone who can raise their hand who wants to
24 speak, please do so right now. And assuming none
25 of those, then if you could go to the people who

1 don't have that facility and unmute them, then
2 that would be good and see if any of them want to
3 speak.

4 MR. BARKER: So I'm unmuting the phone
5 lines. If you don't have a question, please mute
6 your line.

7 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Okay, so let's
8 mute the lines and let's turn back to the dais
9 and I was going to invite everyone to sort of do
10 summary comments. Commissioner Peterman or
11 Jerry?

12 COMMISSIONER PETERMAN: Thank you. I was
13 going to make a reflection and suggestion, and I
14 can offer my summary comments, as well.
15 Regarding the questions that have been raised
16 about how all this fits into the regulatory
17 proceedings and broader regional proceedings, I
18 think it could be useful relatively early on in
19 this process to get some type of document, maybe
20 it's by quarter or something, for the next couple
21 years, just what do we know in terms of deadlines
22 that are coming up. You know, for example, a
23 certain time each year we're doing TPPs, certain
24 deadlines we'll know who is having an RPS, and I
25 personally don't know, for example, what all of

1 the regional deadlines might be, or if there are
2 certain markers of the EIM, or Clean Power Plan,
3 so we have a sense also what other states are
4 working towards, so that we can first at the
5 initial onset when the working groups are working
6 on their priorities to figure out by when certain
7 things need to be done in order to have the
8 opportunity to inform. So I think some type of
9 master document like that would be helpful.

10 I do though appreciate that it's actually
11 easier to do that document once we get these
12 working groups together because many of you are
13 the ones who may know some of those deadlines and
14 other states, other regions, more so than us.
15 And I think personally we all have different
16 things we'd like to see out of this process. I
17 want to personally be sensitive though to hear
18 exactly what the stakeholders want to get out of
19 it, and so would simply ask you all to think
20 about if there's one or two objectives you would
21 have for this process, what would they be? If
22 there's one or two major proceeding concerns that
23 you have that you want to make sure that this
24 process is not crosswise, continue to identify
25 them. I know a number of you raised them in your

1 comments and I think that will be important to
2 bring to the working groups, as well.

3 MR. PEREZ: So I just had a few comments,
4 one, again, wanted to say thank you on behalf of
5 the Bureau for having us up here. Look forward
6 to working with folks. And some of the comments
7 I really appreciated was the thinking about open
8 and transparent. And I think, to echo
9 Commissioner Douglas's comments about, you know,
10 the CEQA process, also it helps us in our NEPA
11 process, and identifying issues early and often
12 and challenges really help us kind of frame out
13 where we're going from a federal perspective. So
14 again, look forward to working with everyone and
15 we'll look forward to hearing more comments. So
16 thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER PETERMAN: I'll say one more
18 thing. And Commissioner Randolph can speak to
19 this as well, but I think in terms of
20 understanding how this interacts with our SB 350
21 work, we're having a workshop on December 2nd to
22 figure out how we have that conversation at the
23 CPUC, and what our next steps are, so I think
24 we'll have better understanding of those
25 relationships in a few weeks.

1 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Great. I was
2 going to ask Brian, when do we want people to
3 file comments? Or you could think about it as we
4 go around the table, but we've sort of invited
5 comments, so we should tell people when.

6 MR. TURNER: Yes, there is a CEC Docket
7 Page set up. The link is on the agenda to this
8 meeting, that deadline is November 16th.

9 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Great. Thank
10 you.

11 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I would just note
12 here as we are working in California to get to
13 our 50 percent of renewables, and as we're
14 working region wide on the Clean Air Act 111(d),
15 and some of the other, as we are all thinking
16 about how we get there, how we achieve those
17 goals, it makes a lot of sense to have a process
18 like this where we're looking forward, where
19 we're thinking about how to be smart from the
20 start, where we're trying to do the smartest,
21 most effective, most efficient planning. And so
22 I really appreciate hearing from the stakeholders
23 who made comments today, and we would also really
24 warmly welcome additional comments, additional
25 feedback, and hope that we can get some of our

1 regional partners to join us in this as well
2 because I think when we plan that way, we'll have
3 a much better system than we will otherwise.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: So I want to thank
5 the staff team for putting this together, you put
6 a lot of work into this. And I want to thank the
7 stakeholders, a lot of you submitted some very
8 detailed and helpful comments that definitely
9 informed all of our thinking about how this
10 process could work and should work.

11 Some of you have heard me say this, but
12 I'll say it again, you know, at this point the
13 challenge the question of how do we meet a high
14 renewable energy goal and a new renewable energy
15 goal, this is not new to us. We've done this
16 with 33 percent. And of course, when I was a new
17 Commissioner in 2008, the goal wasn't even 33
18 percent then and there was a lot of question
19 about whether California could get its act
20 together and permit renewable energy, and then we
21 had the acceleration of the target and the 33
22 percent by Executive Order, and then statutory,
23 and we've seen a tremendous mobilization in
24 California to get this job done. And of course
25 President Picker was a major part of that, Chair

1 Weisenmiller, the ISO, really everyone at this
2 table in some important way, or their
3 organization was a huge part of that
4 mobilization, and it was a mobilization on the
5 planning side, and so we had RETI 1.0, and that
6 fed into DRECP, and that is moving forward, and
7 also fed into the San Joaquin solar dialogue and
8 process, and we've gained tremendously in our
9 ability to do the planning work in our
10 relationships and our understanding of how to
11 both on the management side and on the
12 stakeholder side and on the interagency side, how
13 to make that work. And that's happened on the
14 permitting side, although there's also work left
15 to do, and I think no agency can look at its
16 process and say, "Yes, it's perfect," and every
17 decision is as good as it can be, and is as fast
18 as it should be, and I think we're all
19 continually thinking about how to make our
20 process better, especially given the fact that
21 one thing these new high targets do is they
22 strain our processes, and they require us to use
23 some creativity in understanding how to perform
24 and how to do more in order to achieve these
25 goals. So I think this RETI 2.0 process is the

1 right next step for us.

2 And as I look around this room, you know,
3 there are a lot of people in this room who have
4 been veterans of this for very many years and I'm
5 looking forward to working with all of you and
6 collaboratively with our agency partners. I
7 think everyone has got something to contribute
8 here and I think we could do something really
9 good for California and for our partners in the
10 region, and for our partners at the Federal
11 level. So those are my comments.

12 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Thank you. I'm
13 going to make a couple of observations. First,
14 when we were going through the analysis that
15 ultimately led to the Governor's greenhouse gas
16 goals and ultimately led to SB 350, there was a
17 lot of discussion about the time period and we
18 picked 2030. And we could have picked 2032, or
19 whatever, but 2030 was the date that was picked,
20 and so we'll stay focused on 2030 because we're
21 trying to deal with the implementing the
22 Executive Order and implementing SB 350, that
23 it's not to say California is going to stop at
24 2030, or 50 percent, and hopefully someone
25 someday will be gathering in rooms like this to

1 talk about the end of RETI 3.0's subsequent
2 goals. But for this one, we've got enough on our
3 plates to move forward.

4 And I think in terms of the question of
5 commitment, I think it's really important people
6 take note that we have at the dais certainly very
7 strong representation from the Federal
8 Government, we have three Energy Commissioners,
9 including the Chair, we have the President of the
10 PUC, and four PUC Commissioners, and the
11 President of the PUC, and we have the Executive
12 Director at the CAISO. So it's a very clear
13 message I think to everyone on the importance
14 that we're all placing in this activity, and
15 trying to do this planning now, and also we
16 realize that, just as I'm challenging people who
17 have development ideas to be smart, one of the
18 things which we're trying to be very smart on,
19 which I thank the staff for their presentations,
20 is we're also trying to be smart about how we
21 scope this so that we can effectively and
22 efficiently get what we need to get done in the
23 time that we have to do it. So again, certainly
24 thanks to the staff for their thoughtful efforts.

25 PRESIDENT PICKER: I'll take Mr. Kelly up

1 on his request that we repeat very often the
2 limits here, and this is not a procurement
3 proceeding, that's something that we have to do
4 in our regulatory process as we have a number of
5 tools that we use to actually do that, and then
6 share that with the other agencies. It's not a
7 siting process, it is clearly not capable of
8 doing that, which would stand in the way of the
9 local government use of CEQA and the Energy
10 Commission's use of their functionally equivalent
11 processes, and the permitting processes that
12 other agencies use.

13 So I think that what it really stands in
14 its strength will prove to be is that it allows
15 us to start to think out things fairly early.
16 Now, certainly we will confront all those issues,
17 what are the likely places for the kinds of
18 energy resources we need to meet our greenhouse
19 gas reduction goals? What's the best way to
20 combine them so that we have the reliability that
21 we need and the cost effectiveness that we are
22 required to provide to the ratepayers, and how do
23 we do this so that it doesn't take forever? So
24 all of those are big challenges, but I think that
25 the purpose here is to really start to sketch

1 things out and to figure out where there is
2 agreement and disagreement. It may actually help
3 us to shape some of our proceedings, so I think
4 it goes back to Chair Weisenmiller's comments
5 about where the doors and where are the walls. I
6 think that's where it really helps us the most.
7 But I don't think that we'll get to the
8 granularity and even necessarily have to use some
9 of the tools that the Energy Commission will use
10 for siting, nor would we use some of our
11 procurement tools, and I suspect that we wouldn't
12 use your transmission cost-effectiveness tools at
13 this point. It may help to shape that, it may
14 actually feed into that at some point, but it may
15 only just get as far as giving us some likely
16 consensus around specific features.

17 MR. BERBERICH: First, thank you, Chair
18 Weisenmiller, President Picker, and Commissioners
19 for allowing me to join you here today and I
20 appreciate everything that staff has done to pull
21 everything together. It's going to be a long
22 road ahead, for sure.

23 I think if anything, though, this
24 demonstrates the fact that we will collaborate
25 very closely on this amongst our different

1 organizations and we will also have to coordinate
2 our processes because the CEC, the PUC, and the
3 ISO all have their own distinct processes around
4 these issues, and we'll do our best to get those
5 coordinated as well.

6 I'll leave you with this. There's so
7 many moving parts on this. I think it's
8 incumbent upon us that we not let the perfect be
9 the enemy of the good. We're going to have to
10 find as best conceptual models as we possibly
11 can, but I doubt that we'll be able to get every
12 specific thing nailed down as we go through this
13 process, so we need to keep that in mind, too.
14 There are a lot of moving parts.

15 COMMISSIONER FLORIO: Yes, well, ditto to
16 everything that's been said. I think thinking
17 about what might be missing here, we've got a
18 comment date and a Docket Page, but we've
19 identified two technical working groups, a
20 Plenary Group, and a Partner Agency Coordination
21 Group. And I think we need to either designate
22 at least an interim lead for those processes, or
23 set up separate Listservs so people can begin to
24 engage. I think just filing the comments may not
25 be sufficient to get the work moving quickly, so

1 I think we want to be able to fairly quickly post
2 ways for people to get on the list to be engaged
3 because this is -- we want to hit the ground
4 running. It seems like there's a goal to get at
5 least some preliminary work done this year and in
6 the first quarter of next year. So I could
7 commend that we think about developing
8 communication tools that allow people to start to
9 engage. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER RANDOLPH: Thank you. I
11 just wanted to thank the staff and echo what one
12 of the other commenters mentioned about project
13 management, sort of it's going to be critical to
14 keeping things on pace and carefully keeping the
15 scope manageable. And so I appreciate the
16 efforts so far and look forward to sort of
17 continuing effective project management.

18 It's interesting hearing folks talking
19 about the permitting process because I think the
20 holy grail of permitting is always to be able in
21 the CEQA context to have some programmatic
22 document that you're tiering off of. And that is
23 not what we are going to end up with here, I
24 mean, that is a significant limitation of this
25 process. But at the same time, I think staff can

1 be mindful of looking at ways that they can
2 create product that would inform needs and
3 objective analyses in the future for individual
4 projects way down the line, and so I sort of
5 encourage you to kind of look at ways to collect
6 that information in a manner that might be useful
7 for consultants going forward. And then lastly,
8 I'll put a plug in for the December 2nd workshop
9 at the PUC in the afternoon where we're going to
10 be talking about our thinking about our role
11 going forward in implementing SB 350. Thanks.

12 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Great. Just so
13 everyone knows that in terms of the various -- so
14 Brian is the lead on this, and certainly people
15 should communicate with Brian. And in terms of
16 the Plenary Group, again, talk to Brian. You
17 know, Neil is Transmission, so if you want to
18 start talking transmission, talk to Neil. And
19 Environmental Land Use, that's Al. So again,
20 people who want to start those dialogues, the
21 three of them are the ones you want to start
22 talking to.

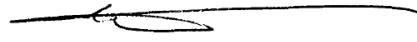
23 MR. TURNER: If I may, Chair
24 Weisenmiller, if I didn't explain enough earlier,
25 we're busy scheduling the first workshops for

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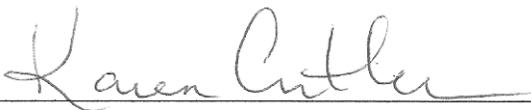
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