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Lassen and Round Mountain Transmission Assessment Focus Area

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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

Re: Lassen and Round Mountain Transmission Assessment Focus Area

Lassen Municipal Utility District (LMUD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in response to the May 2, 2016 meeting held by the RETI 2.0 Agency Management Team. These comments focus specifically on consideration of renewable resource and transmission development in the Lassen/Modoc area of Northern California.

As noted in the May 2 presentation, this area has very high technical potential for renewable resource development. In fact, it is the only area in Northern California that has significant potential for solar, wind, and geothermal resource development.

LMUD has been aware of this potential for a number of years, and has in fact been approached by numerous renewable energy developers interested in projects here. In 2010-2011, LMUD was in contact with twelve (12) separate developers who were planning sixteen (16) separate renewable energy projects with a total capacity of over 2500 MW.

At that time, LMUD had a proposal filed with the WECC (through TEPPC) for construction of a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line that would provide a connection from NV Energy's 345 kV Reno to Alturas line to the California Central Valley, which would have allowed the proposed renewable energy to be delivered to the backbone transmission system in Northern California. LMUD currently owns transmission right-of-way for approximately half of the proposed route. The proposed line would not only provide a path for CA renewable energy generation to be delivered to population centers in California, it would also provide a path for renewable energy, particularly geothermal, from Northern Nevada into California.

Interest in development slowed considerably with the prolonged downturn in the economy we experienced at the beginning of this decade, but there has been a renewed interest of late, particularly since the adoption of more aggressive renewable portfolio standards in SB350. We believe this area

deserves serious consideration as California plans strategies to meet its' renewable energy goals. Unfortunately, despite the significant renewable potential in northeastern California, we suffer from a 'chicken or the egg' problem of a lack of sufficient transmission to allow for development of this region.

In summary, there has been and continues to be commercial interest in renewable energy and transmission development in the Lassen/Modoc area, and we believe it should be included as a Transmission Assessment Focus Area in the RETI 2.0 process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the process, and please let me know how LMUD can be of assistance moving forward.

Doug Smith
General Manager
Lassen Municipal Utility District