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Notice to Consider Adoption of Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-Income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities

The California Energy Commission will hold a Business Meeting on:

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016**
10:00 A.M.
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 Ninth Street
First Floor, Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room
Sacramento, California
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Note: Audio from this meeting will be broadcast over the internet.
For details on listening in, please go to www.energy.ca.gov/webcast/.

As part of the Business Meeting to be held on December 14, 2016, the Energy Commission will consider adopting the *Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities* (“Barriers Study”). The document will be made available on the Energy Commission’s website at: www.energy.ca.gov/sb350/barriers_report/.

**Background**
Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (SB 350) on October 7, 2015. The bill establishes new energy efficiency and renewable electricity targets by 2030 to support California's long-term climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The bill also finds that there is insufficient understanding of the barriers for low-income and disadvantaged communities to access energy efficiency investments, solar photovoltaic energy generation, weatherization, other forms of renewable generation, clean transportation options, and contracting opportunities for small businesses located in disadvantaged communities.
For this reason, SB 350 directs the Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board to complete and publish a study by January 1, 2017, on the following topics:

- Barriers to and opportunities for solar photovoltaic energy generation as well as barriers to and opportunities for access to other renewable energy by low-income customers.
- Barriers to contracting opportunities for local small businesses in disadvantaged communities.
- Barriers for low-income customers to energy efficiency and weatherization investments, including those in disadvantaged communities, as well as recommendations on how to increase access to energy efficiency and weatherization investments to low-income customers.
- Barriers for low-income customers to zero-emission and near-zero-emission transportation options, including those in disadvantaged communities, as well as recommendations on how to increase access to zero-emission and near-zero-emission transportation options to low-income customers, including those in disadvantaged communities (addressed in Part B of this study, to be completed by the Air Resources Board).

There are two parts to the Barriers Study, identified as Part A and Part B. Part A of the Barriers Study was completed by the Energy Commission and encompasses the first three bullets described above. Part B of the Barriers Study is being developed by the Air Resources Board and encompasses the final bullet described above.

Written Comments
The Energy Commission will accept written comments on the Barriers Study and requests parties to submit comments in writing by 4:00 p.m. on December 8, 2016 so that comments can be considered prior to the December 14, 2016 Business Meeting. All written comments will become part of the public record of this proceeding. Additionally, written comments may be posted to the Energy Commission’s website.

The Energy Commission uses an electronic commenting system. Visit the website at www.energy.ca.gov/sb350/barriers_report/ and click on the “Submit e-Comment” link in the “Proceeding Information” box.

This will take you to the page for adding comments to the SB 350 Barriers Report Docket. Please enter your contact information and comment title. Under “subject(s)” select “SB 350 Public Comments”. You may include comments in the box titled “Comment Text” or attach a file with your comments. Please include your name and the name of the organization you represent, if applicable. Attached comments must be in a Microsoft® Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf) formatted file.

Written comments may also be submitted by e-mail to the Dockets Office or sent by U.S. Mail to:
If you choose not to use the electronic filing system, please include the appropriate docket number on any e-mailed or written comments. Comments may be e-mailed to Docket@energy.ca.gov. Please copy the program manager, Michael Sokol, by email at Michael.Sokol@energy.ca.gov.

Please note that your electronic, e-mailed, written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone, and e-mail) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts
The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser’s Office at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at MediaOffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this document, please contact Alana Mathews at Alana.Mathews@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489.