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Docket Number:	16-OIR-02
Project Title:	SB 350 Barriers Report
TN #:	214703
Document Title:	CRPE Comments: Environmental Justice Support for Adopting Barrier's Study and Directing Programs to Disadvantaged Communities
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/8/2016 2:16:44 PM
Docketed Date:	12/8/2016

Comment Received From: Madeline

Submitted On: 12/8/2016

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Environmental Justice Support for Adopting Barrier's Study and Directing Programs to Disadvantaged Communities

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



**CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT
1012 JEFFERSON ST, DELANO CA 93215**

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA
95814

Re: 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 Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment is a grassroots environmental justice non-profit serving residents of the San Joaquin Valley negatively impacted by pollution. We serve residents across Kern County including in: Arvin, Allensworth, Bakersfield, Delano, Earlimart, Lamont, Shafter, Wasco.

We commend the Energy Commission on their excellent work to ensure California's low income residents and residents in disadvantaged communities have access to solar, renewable energy, and energy efficiency programs. These communities are overburdened by the negative health impacts from fossil fuel production and as the study identifies face numerous barriers to fully participate in the shift toward cleaner energy.

We urge the Energy Commission to adopt the "Barriers Study" and corresponding Draft Recommendations. We especially urge the Commission to adopt Recommendation 10.

"The Energy Commission and CPUC should direct research, development, demonstration, and market facilitation programs to include targeted benefits for low-income customers and disadvantaged communities."

We urge the Commission to target a minimum of 25% of the Electric Program Investment Charge program's technology demonstration and deployment funding for sites located in disadvantaged communities and conduct forums to share best practices and case studies on projects in these disadvantaged communities. In 2015, EPIC funded 12 projects out of 81 research and deployment projects in disadvantaged communities.¹ By this measure, only 14% of EPIC's programs are reaching disadvantaged communities even though they constitute 25% of the state. These communities are ratepayers and are entitled to fully participate in all the incredible programs the Energy Commission supports.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter,
Madeline Stano,
Staff Attorney, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

¹ Energy Commission Program Highlights, PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - CEC DIVERSITY COMMITMENT, <http://www.energy.ca.gov/commission/diversity/highlights.html> (last visited Dec 8, 2016).