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California Energy Commission
Dockets Office
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: The Central Valley Urban Institute's Comment Letter on MS-4 Docket No. 18-IEPR-01

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on MS-4 Docket No. 18-IEPR-01. The California Energy Commission presents an incredible opportunity to do something truly transformative in the Central Valley and The Central Valley Urban Institute is committed to ensuring we have a plan and the right partners at the table to accomplish this work, that meets the communities environmental, economic, and equity goals. We commend the California Energy Commission staff for working to develop this report. We applaud the Energy Commission and its staff for the goals it is striving to reach. And we applaud your efforts to change the conversation and to take actions that reflect what equity and access looks like especially for historically under-represented residents in the Central Valley.

We would also appreciate your allowing flexibility in the requirements that would be in alignment with better serving our community. Two weeks ago the California Legislative Black Caucus held an Informational Briefing, The State of Black California: 10 Years Later. The all day briefing focused on Healthcare, Education and the Economics. And it reinforced what we already know - that we continue to face significant challenges around race, ethnicity and economic mobility. The expert panels also brought into stark relief that there has been little, if any, substantial change in the last ten years. And in the last few weeks, disadvantaged communities across the country have been rocked by acts of intolerance and racism. At this time of national unrest and anxiety, we feel it is particularly important for the system to reaffirm its commitment to inclusion and diversity within low income disadvantaged communities of color.

The Central Valley Urban Institute greatly appreciates the opportunity to submit public comment on. The Central Valley Urban Institute is a small racial and economic justice nonprofit working to advance economic opportunity and empowerment for people of color through advocacy, community and coalition building, research, and leadership development here in the heart of Central California. The Central Valley Urban Institute is committed to fighting systemic and explicit disinvestment in low income and disadvantaged communities of color in the Central Valley.

It is our goal to drive investments and to increase services, financial access, lending and community development in the San Joaquin Valley to low income residents to improve economic mobility efforts. Again we are thankful for the Department's commitment and willingness to build solutions for low income, disadvantaged communities, and communities of color in the Central Valley.

Respectfully,

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