

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Southern California Energy Reliability
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Document Title:	California ISO Response Letter to Tim Haines at State Water Contractors
Description:	Letter re: Increased Capabilities for Transfer of Low Carbon Electricity between the Pacific Northwest and California
Filer:	Stephanie Bailey
Organization:	California ISO
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Steve Berberich
President & Chief Executive Officer

March 29, 2018

Tim Haines
Deputy General Manager
State Water Contractors
1121 L Street, Suite 1050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Increased Capabilities for Transfer of Low Carbon Electricity between the Pacific Northwest and California

Dear Mr. Haines:

I'm writing to respond to your letter of February 21, 2018 to Mr. Weisenmiller, Chair of the California Energy Commission, and Mr. Picker, President of the California Public Utilities Commission regarding increased capabilities for transfer of low carbon electricity between the Pacific Northwest and California, as the matter directly relates to the request from Chair Weisenmiller and President Picker to the study request they posed to me in their letter of February 15, 2018.

We are pleased to see the support expressed in your letter for the study we are taking on, and we will look forward to your input as that study is scoped and undertaken through our open and transparent stakeholder-driven transmission planning process.

However, there are also several statements and assertions that I must take exception to, as they do not accurately reflect the situation, or by omission of certain details, leave an incorrect impression for the Chair and President.

In describing the past history of use of Remedial Action Scheme (RAS) to increase the amount of time the system could be operated at higher transfers, you will recall that the access to RAS load shedding was being provided through agreements with PG&E, which terminated according to the provisions of those agreements in 2014.

The CAISO did assess the impacts of the loss of the contracted RAS for the State Water Project load shedding and concluded it would not provide material benefits to warrant separately contracting for those RAS load shedding provisions. Moreover, the RAS impact on total transfer capabilities between California and the Northwest was limited to rare instances where there is abnormally high northern California hydroelectric generation that would otherwise limit simultaneous high transfers from the Northwest. Given past hydro conditions, the absence of the RAS has not been the material impediment you stated in the letter nor has it had the adverse impacts cited in your letter. In fact, actual real time congestion on the California-Oregon Interties have been minimal over the last few years notwithstanding the loss of access to the RAS load shedding service previously provided.

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Setting that aside, we do look forward to your support and cooperation in the studies we are scoping out, and, consistent with our annual transmission planning processes, we envision ample opportunity for stakeholder input on the scope and study efforts.

Sincerely,



Steve Berberich
President & Chief Executive Officer

CC:

Mr. Robert Weisenmiller, Chair, California Energy Commission
Mr. Michael Picker, President, California Public Utilities Commission
Ms. Jennifer Pierre, General Manager, State Water Contractors