

DOCKETED

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Rising Sun Energy Center Comments on Draft Staff Report Tracking Progress for Energy Equity

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



RISING SUN ENERGY CENTER

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March 16, 2018

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 18-IEPR-08
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Via Electronic Commenting System

Re: Docket No. 18-IEPR-08-Comments of Rising Sun Energy Center on the California Energy Commission Draft Staff Report Tracking Progress for Energy Equity

Rising Sun Energy Center (“Rising Sun” hereafter) respectfully submits these comments in response to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Draft Staff Report Tracking Progress for Energy Equity (“Report” hereafter).

Rising Sun Energy Center is a workforce development organization that provides green training and employment opportunities to youth and to low-income adults, and that offers free energy efficiency and water conservation assessments, installations, and education to renters and homeowners in six Bay Area and Central Valley counties.

Rising Sun agrees with the observations and conclusions made in the Report, and we appreciate the diligent efforts by CEC to identify opportunities to improve access to and investment in clean energy technologies for low-income customers and disadvantaged communities, in addition to boosting these communities’ resilience to grid outages and extreme natural events. We are especially appreciative of the identification of clean energy outreach and energy efficiency opportunities in specific regions. For implementers like Rising Sun, it is critical to learn of the high-priority regions that can benefit the most from our residential energy efficiency program. Rising Sun also appreciates CEC’s attention to local energy resilience; explicitly identifying the relationship between energy equity indicators and energy equity objectives, and highlighting the importance of state agencies designing clean energy programs that target renters.

We value our engagement in the process thus far, and the opportunity to comment on the Report. We offer the following comments for consideration:

Clean Energy Jobs (Page 30)

Rising Sun supports CEC's observation that the workforce indicator will benefit from including job quality, workforce development, pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and community workforce agreements data if it becomes available. Rising Sun recommends that CEC also consider the required skill and education level required for available clean energy jobs in California. For instance, the San Francisco Bay Area houses a relatively large number of clean energy jobs, however, many of these jobs require a college degree in the sciences or engineering. Rising Sun works with low-income San Francisco Bay Area residents with barriers to employment and many of its participants do not possess the required academic credentials to enter the clean energy job market. Rising Sun encourages CEC to consider the required skill and education level of clean energy jobs when evaluating clean energy workforce opportunities for low-income and disadvantaged workers.

California Workforce Development Board-led Report to the Legislature

Assembly Bill 398 (Garcia, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017) requires the "California Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the state board, report to the legislature on the need for increased education, career technical education, job training, and workforce development resources or capacity to help industry, workers, and communities transition to economic and labor-market changes related to statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals" by no later than January 1, 2019. We encourage CEC to collaborate with the California Workforce Development Board to ensure that the agencies share data, leverage inherent synergy in the overlapping topic areas and complementary timeline, and align recommendations and next steps.

Rising Sun Energy Center appreciates the CEC for its commitment to this topic and for the opportunity to comment and engage in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Pincus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jodi Pincus
Executive Director
Rising Sun Energy Center