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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

Pursuant to Government Code section 11430.50(a)(2), the California Energy Commission (CEC) hereby gives notice of the following ex parte communication.

On November 8, 2022 an in-person meeting took place from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The following persons participated on behalf of the CEC: Chair David Hochschild, Executive Director Drew Bohan, Energy Storage Team Lead for the R&D Division and Military Advisor Michael Gravely, Chief of Staff to Chair Hochschild Noemi Gallardo, and Chief Policy Advisor Katerina Robinson. Senior Advisor for Energy for Karen Douglas attended the meeting.

The communication was with the following representatives from the California Energy Storage Association (CESA): Executive Director Alex Morris and Policy Director Jin Noh; and CESA member companies Hydrostor and Redflow. The following persons participated on behalf of Hydrostor: Manager of Government Affairs Julie Gill and President Jon Norman. The following persons participated on behalf of Redflow: CEO and Managing Director Tim Harris, Chief Commercial Officer and President North America Mark Higgins, Chief Technology Officer Steve Hickey, and Vice President Project Engineering Paul Kelleher.

CESA discussed the need for a funding approach for long duration energy storage (LDES) that enables greater scale to meet 2030-2045 needs. Hydrostor and Redflow discussed steps involved with commercialization and their need for funding approaches that can tailor to different types of companies rather than having a single type of approach. Chair Hochschild asked the Hydrostor and Redflow representatives where the companies were based and said the CEC has multiple types of funding opportunities. The Chair asked Mike Gravely to provide details about those opportunities. Mike Gravely explained new general funds received in July 2022 for future LDES opportunities and provided an overview of the current plans for the LDES program and publicly available data on future EPIC grant opportunities for energy storage technologies. Additionally, Mike Gravely discussed the new DOE funding opportunities for LDES that is expected to be released before the end of the calendar year.

Hydrostor discussed how their system fits into California's future opportunities for LDES acknowledged the open siting proceeding with the CEC and did not discuss any elements relevant to the proceeding. Their primary focus was on future funding opportunities and how they could integrate their technology into California’s energy storage future. Hydrostor estimated the standard system would take four to six years to engineer and commission and stated that Hydrostor has a good technology for California to consider as a future LDES solution. Mike Gravely asked Hydrostor that given their technology involves considerable underground work, how would that impact obtaining CEQA approvals as the new LDES funding has a limit of encumbering the funds in two to three years. Hydrostor responded that their system could meet that requirement if a decision by the CEC was made early enough to pursue a project.

Redflow explained their current 2MWH systems installed and funded by the EPIC Program. Redflow’s interest was to understand what future opportunity was available to them to be able to install a 10-30MWH system in California funded by either the EPIC program or the LDES program. Redflow's system is a Zinc Bromine Flow Battery technology and some of the attendees explained to the group the differences in a Zinc Bromine flow battery and a Vanadium Redux flow battery system. Redflow also discussed their manufacturing plans to allow them to deliver a new system in the 10-30 MWH energy range by the end of 2024.

Dated: November 14, 2022