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January 19, 2024

Dear Members of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG),

We would like to share our deep appreciation for your assistance in shaping and improving the programs and policies of the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Your participation gives an even stronger voice to disadvantaged communities, including tribal and rural communities, so that they can meaningfully participate in and benefit from both agencies' programs and policies. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

We offer the following list of recommendations regarding 2024 priorities for your consideration.

Joint CEC & CPUC Recommendations for 2024 Priorities

- 1) **Workforce Training and Development.**
- 2) **Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation.**
- 3) **Building, Industrial, and Gas System Decarbonization; and Clean Renewable Hydrogen.**
- 4) **Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility.**
- 5) **Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, offshore wind, Lithium Valley Vision, long-term natural gas).**
- 6) **Electric Program Investments Charge Program (EPIC).**
- 7) **Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation.**

Additional CPUC Recommendations Regarding 2024 Priorities

- **Affordability.** The CPUC recommends that overall affordability continue to be a standalone priority. The CPUC recognizes that consumers need affordable utility services to ensure health, safety, and participation in society.
- **Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources.** The CPUC recommends that the existing DER priority be expanding to include related infrastructure planning. The CPUC is beginning the process of examining California's grid needs and recommends that this be included as a priority topic given the importance of sufficient grid capacity needed to provide the state's energy needs. We must ensure we have a grid that can meet the needs of the 21st century and assess needs and impacts for vulnerable communities, capacity, smart appliances, building decarbonization, and charging of EVs.

- **Smart Grids and Broadband.** The CPUC recommends maintaining the broadband priority expanded to include smart grids. This priority is essential to eliminating the digital divide and addressing the need for access to broadband for utilization of new technologies that are critical for communities to participate in the functions of modern society. The CPUC recognizes that this priority goes beyond standard energy issues, however the importance of broadband in meeting California’s energy needs and goals must be universal for all communities and is an important component of our clean energy transition.

Again, thank you for your partnership on these important equity issues. Your constructive input serves to inform and improve programs for all Californians.

Sincerely,

CEC and CPUC DACAG Lead Commissioners



Darcie L. Houck, Commissioner, CPUC



Karen Douglas, Commissioner, CPUC



Patty Monahan, Commissioner, CEC

Noemí Gallardo

Noemí Gallardo, Commissioner, CEC