

DOCKETED

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Filer:	Raquel Kravitz
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**California Energy Commission
Integrated Energy Policy Report Commissioner Workshop**

**Landscape-Scale Environmental Evaluations for Energy Infrastructure Planning
and the Strategic Transmission Investment Plan**

**Monday, August 3, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room 1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

(Listed times are general guidelines only)

Introduction (10:00 – 10:05)

Heather Raitt, IEPR Program Manager

Opening Comments (10:05 – 10:20)

Commissioner Andrew McAllister, California Energy Commission

Commissioner Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission

Commissioner Janea Scott, California Energy Commission

Ken Alex, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research and Senior Advisor to the Governor

President Michael Picker, California Public Utilities Commission

Jim Kenna, State Director California, Bureau of Land Management

Session 1: Agency Introductions and Updates (10:20 – 10:50)

Moderator: Al Alvarado, Program Manager, California Energy Commission

Presentations

- Overview of Energy Commission Activities in Renewable Energy Planning and Technical Support for Planning Processes – *Roger Johnson, Deputy Director – Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission*
- Status of California Public Utilities Commission Activities on Track 2B of the Renewable Portfolio Standard Proceeding and the Development of Longer Term Scenarios for 2030 and 2050 in the Long Term Procurement Planning – *Paul Douglas, Supervisor – Renewable Procurement and Market Design, California Public Utilities Commission*
- California Independent System Operator Use of Environmental Information in Transmission Planning and Technical Support for Planning Processes – *Jeff Billinton, Manager of Regional Transmission North – California Independent System Operator*

Session 2: Energy Commission Staff Presentations (10:50-11:30)

- Strategic Transmission Planning and Corridors – *Judy Grau, Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission*
- Decision Support Tools for Long Term Renewable Energy Planning – *Scott Flint, Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission; Pat Lineback, Region 8 Fish and Wildlife Coordinator, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and Armand Gonzales, Special Advisor, California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Lunch (11:30 – 12:30)**Session 3: Landscape-Scale Planning Efforts for Renewable Energy, Land Use, Conservation (12:30-1:45)**

Moderator: Terry Watt, Governor's Liaison

Presentations

- San Joaquin Valley Solar, James Strittholt, President, Executive Director of Conservation Biology Institute
- Kern County, Lorelei Oviatt, Director, Planning Department
- Apple Valley's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, Heidi Brannon, Chief of Staff, Solution Strategies International
- Butte County, Tim Snellings, Director, Development Services Department
- Western Electricity Coordinating Council, Environmental Risk Metrics for Transmission Planning, Carl Zichella, Director of Western Transmission, Natural Resources Defense Council

Break (1:45-2:00)**Session 4: Renewable Energy Planning Grants (2:00 – 3:30)**

Moderator: Lori Sinsley, Special Advisor, California Energy Commission

- Imperial County, Andy Horne, Deputy County Executive Officer, Natural Resources Development
- Inyo County, Cathreen Richards, Senior Planner
- Los Angeles County, Susan Tae, Supervising Regional Planner, Community Studies North, Department of Regional Planning
- Riverside County, Juan C. Perez, Director, Transportation and Land Management Agency
- San Bernardino County, Tom Hudson, Director, Land Use Services (**via WebEx**)
- San Luis Obispo County, James Caruso, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Building

Session 5: Public Comments (3:30)**Commissioner Closing Remarks****Adjourn**

Landscape-Scale Environmental Evaluations for Energy Infrastructure Planning and the Strategic Transmission Investment Plan

Workshop Discussion Questions

1. Various landscape-scale planning efforts are underway throughout California and the West, although sometimes for different purposes. What are the benefits of this kind of planning and how can it be used to help meet State and local renewable energy, greenhouse gas, planning and environmental policy goals?
2. How can information developed in landscape-scale planning efforts be used to inform decision makers of the most appropriate areas to develop renewable energy generation and transmission?
3. How can web-based information tools make this information available to stakeholders and the public? What tools are available and how can they best be used? What has worked? What are the lessons learned?
4. How can different energy agencies best work together to connect environmental information and local government information with existing energy infrastructure, planning and permitting processes? How should this information be considered and influence these processes?

Questions Regarding Right Sizing Transmission

To be addressed in Written Comments after the Workshop

1. Is right-sizing transmission a qualitative (policy) issue or a quantitative (metric-based) issue?
2. What criteria should be used to assess right-sizing opportunities?
3. Is right-sizing only appropriate for areas that have been studied in depth for maximum possible renewable build-out, such as DRECP?
4. Given that new policy targets are considered for long-term renewable generation and GHG emission reduction targets, how should right-sizing transmission proposals be evaluated in long-term planning?
 - a. Should a specific time frame be applied to the evaluation (10, 15, 20 years)?
5. What is the appropriate way to analyze the costs vs. benefits of a potential right-sizing project?
 - a. What is the cost of building a right-sizing opportunity into a future project (for example, build a 230 kV transmission line to 500 kV specifications or a single-circuit line with double-circuit towers)?
 - b. How do we evaluate if the increase in cost is worth the risk?