

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-AAER-02
Project Title:	Appliance Efficiency Rulemaking for Computers, Computer Monitors, and Signage Displays
TN #:	214172
Document Title:	Sierra Club California Comments: On Proposed Energy Efficiency Standards for Computers
Description:	Confirmed with the filer, the comment is to be docketed in 16-AAER-02
Filer:	System
Organization:	Sierra Club California/Edward Lee Moreno
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	10/25/2016 2:26:58 PM
Docketed Date:	10/25/2016

Comment Received From: Edward Lee Moreno

Submitted On: 10/25/2016

Docket Number: 16-AAER-02

Subject: Docket Number 14-AAER-02

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



October 24, 2016

Andrew McAllister
Commissioner
California Energy Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Docket Number 14-AAER-02

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

Sierra Club California commends the California Energy Commission (CEC) for its proposed energy efficiency standards for computers and monitors. The standards are expected to cut unnecessary energy waste while saving California consumers and businesses millions on their electricity bills in the process. This is particularly important for low-income families who spend a disproportionate share of their income on energy costs and who may be stuck using the cheapest, most inefficient models on the market.

The CEC's proposal is generally strong and balanced; it requires manufacturers to upgrade their less efficient products to achieve minimum levels of efficiency. The CEC's projected savings of \$370 million annually will put money back in consumers' pockets and boost California's economy, while also reducing power plant pollution and helping to bring the state closer to its climate goals.

However, we share the views of NRDC and the Greenlining Institute that the CEC faces a challenge in ensuring that the standards actually deliver these promised savings: given the rapid pace of evolution in computer technology, for these efficiency standards to be effective, it is critical that you minimize potential loopholes. As the standard is currently written, some machines are exempted or given a large allowance because they have premium or emerging features.

While these features often are rare in today's market, and the initial implementation often draws a little extra power, they could be commonplace, or even ubiquitous, four years from now when the second stage of the standard goes into effect, and no longer require any extra power. Continuing to give them an overly generous allowance has the potential to drastically reduce the standard's benefits, and is a point of serious concern.

We also ask that the CEC ensure the projected energy savings and financial benefits do not evaporate through loopholes and overly generous allowances, and that California consumers, and particularly businesses, schools, and low-income families who are affected most by computer energy waste, get to experience the promised benefits of the standards.

While CEC's proposed computer and monitor standard contains many good elements, more remains to be done to ensure projected savings materialize. As such, we are asking the Commission to do the following:

- **Minimize long-term exemptions and allowances.** When the second stage of the standards comes into effect four years after adoption, manufacturers will have had plenty of time to integrate these features into their typical designs in a way that requires no additional energy. Technology evolution has shown time and again that most new features don't require much, if any, additional energy once optimized and integrated into chips.
- **Include an "off-ramp" mechanism** for any exemption or allowance that is no longer warranted and develops into a major loophole. The CEC will monitor the market, and when pre-determined and clearly communicated conditions are met, initiate a rulemaking to adjust the standards to phase out

exemptions and allowances within 12 months. This would give industry time to adjust while avoiding a major loss in savings due to growing loopholes.

Sierra Club California is very supportive of the role that appliance energy efficiency standards can play in helping California meet its ambitious climate goals. Appliance standards are by far the most cost-effective, consumer-friendly energy saving measure, and we recommend they be a more prominent tool in California's climate protection and economy-boosting policy portfolio. This starts by ensuring that the current computer and monitor standards are designed to actually deliver the promised savings.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Moreno".

Edward Moreno
Policy Advocate