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Steve Berberich
President & Chief Executive Officer

March 7, 2018

Michael Picker
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3296

Robert Weisenmiller
Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of February 15, 2018, requesting a sensitivity case be studied in our upcoming 2018-2019 transmission planning process, focusing on increasing *capabilities* for transfers of low carbon electricity between the Pacific Northwest and California.

I agree that the challenges of integrating increasing volumes of renewable generation, coupled with state objectives to be less dependent on natural gas-fired generation for integration services, requires looking more broadly at options in and out of the state for low carbon integration opportunities. The capability questions raised in your letter also dovetail with other requirements to reassess certain capabilities and limits on several key transfer paths to the Pacific Northwest, so the request is also particularly timely.

The ISO is therefore pleased to take on this study, partnering with the *Energy Commission* and Public Utilities Commission, as well as with our industry neighbors. We have begun our industry outreach, and have included the intention to conduct this special study in our draft 2018-2019 Transmission Planning Process Unified Planning Assumptions and Study Plan, released on February 22, 2018. Our staff will look to the feedback we receive from other stakeholders and our outreach with neighboring utilities to then work with your staff to refine the study scope.

Again, thank you for bringing this forward and offering to support the study effort, and I will look forward to our continued cooperation as we move into the planning cycle.

Sincerely,

Steve Berberich
President & Chief Executive Officer