

DOCKETED

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**DRY CREEK RANCHERIA
BAND OF POMO INDIANS**

February 15, 2019

docket@energy.ca.gov
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 19-ERDD-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Comment Letter Regarding the Electronic Program Investigate Charge
(EPIC) Grant Funding Opportunity Evaluation Criteria**

Dear Mrs. Lorraine Gonzalez:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. We write to submit comments on the Electronic Program Investigate Charge (EPIC) Grant Funding Opportunity Evaluation Criteria proposed by the California Public Utilities Commission. The (EPIC) Program was created by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in 2011 to support investments in clean energy technologies. The EPIC program funds clean energy research, demonstration and deployment projects that support California's energy policy goals and promote greater electricity reliability, lower costs, and increased safety. The Energy Commission through EPIC will fill critical funding gaps within the energy innovation pipeline to advance technologies, tools, and strategies of near zero-net-energy residential homes and commercial buildings, high-efficient businesses, low-carbon localized generation, sustainable bioenergy systems, electrification of the transportation system, and a resilient grid that is supported by a highly flexible and robust distribution and transmission infrastructure. These smarter, safer energy advancements provide ratepayers with better electricity services, reduce air pollution, foster economic development, and help achieve the State's policy goals at the lowest possible cost.

Looking at the materials available on the CPUC website, it appears that Tribal governments are not specifically eligible to apply for EPIC funding. We hope that the lack of inclusion of California Native American tribes and entities is merely an oversight, but we ask that the CPUC modify the program requirements to ensure that California Native American Tribes are eligible for funding under the EPIC program. California tribes are part of the statewide system of electric transmission, but often, we are forgotten by agencies when they plan or offer funding to make the system better. We hope that the

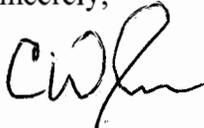
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current CPUC will begin to change that pattern by including California Native American tribes in the EPIC program.

We also strongly suggest that any agreement resulting from a solicitation will include terms and conditions that recipients are required do not unfairly exclude California Native American tribes. It is important that all State agencies become more comfortable working with tribal governments and be more inclusive of tribal concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial and important issue to tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CWright", written over the printed name.

Chris Wright, Chairman
DRY CREEK RANCHERIA BAND OF POMO INDIANS