

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Yurok Tribe
Submitted On: 2/21/2019
Docket Number: 19-ERDD-01*

**Regarding the Electric Program Investigate Charge Grant Funding
Opportunity Evaluation Criteria**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



February 21, 2019

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 19-ERDD-01
1516 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Via electronic mail to doCKET@energy.ca.gov

RE: Comments Regarding the Electric Program Investigate Charge (EPIC) Grant Funding Opportunity Evaluation Criteria (Docket No. 19-ERDD-01)

Dear California Energy Commission,

The Yurok Tribe writes to submit comments on the Electric Program Investigate Charge (EPIC) Grant Funding Opportunity Proposed Evaluation Criteria. As you may know, the Yurok Tribe has been disproportionately negatively affected by a long-standing history of lack of energy and water resources. The Yurok Reservation is still partially without electric power to the homes of its tribal members. Other parts of the Reservation, including a public school, were just electrified last summer. Many reservation homes also rely on local streams for drinking water, frequently placing them in peril from contamination and illegal diversion of water. In short, the Yurok Reservation does not yet even enjoy the basic benefits of electricity and water that most communities of the state take for granted, much less have investments in clean energy. Yet, our Reservation, while in a demonstrated low-income area, may not necessarily qualify as “disadvantaged” under the rather elaborate Proposed Criteria.

Therefore, the Yurok Tribe hereby requests that any California Indian tribes who qualify as low-income communities, automatically also be categorized as disadvantaged. Adjusting the criteria for Indian tribes and explicitly acknowledging and encouraging their eligibility would recognize that our low-income communities within the State have yet to even benefit from electrification (whether clean or otherwise). This change would also properly respect the government-to-government relationship between the State and Tribes that sets tribal communities apart from other minority, low-income, or otherwise disadvantaged communities. It is critical that tribes are not left behind once again from the opportunity to invest in critical energy resources. The California Energy Commission must live up to its responsibilities to its most vulnerable population--Indian tribes.

Thank you for allowing comments on your Proposed Evaluation Criteria and for your careful review of this issue and consideration of our comments. We would encourage the Commission to conduct

tribal consultation directly with Indian tribes on this topic to better scope and refine how its proposal will affect Indian tribes and their unique energy disadvantages and needs.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. James
Chairman