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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for Modification of Regulations Governing the Power Source Disclosure Program

Docket No. 16-OIR-05

Lead Agency

California Energy Commission

September 2019

Proposed Negative Declaration

Project Name

This project is a statewide rulemaking proceeding titled *Modification of Regulations Governing the Power Source Disclosure Program*, California Energy Commission (CEC) Docket Number 16-OIR-05.

Project Description and Location

Introduction

The Power Source Disclosure (PSD) program was established by Senate Bill 1305 (Sher, Chapter 796, Statutes of 1997) in an effort to provide California consumers “accurate, reliable, and simple to understand information on the sources of energy that are used to provide electric services.”¹ In 2016, the CEC adopted modifications to the regulation to incorporate statutory changes to program rules and reporting requirements as required by Assembly Bill (AB) 162 (Ruskin, Chapter 313, Statutes of 2009) and AB 2227 (Bradford, Chapter 606, Statutes of 2012).

Under the current PSD program, retail suppliers are required to annually disclose to their customers the mix of sources used to provide electricity service during the previous calendar year. In those instances where a retail supplier offers customers more than one electric supply portfolio, the retail supplier is to provide information specific to each electricity portfolio offered. In addition, retail suppliers are required to report to the CEC their gross purchases of electricity by source, resales of electricity, and the net electricity by source used to serve retail load for the previous calendar year. The CEC uses this information, in part, to generate California’s total system power mix. Retail suppliers then disclose to their customers the power mix associated with their electricity portfolios, as well as California’s overall power mix on an annual Power Content Label. Providing both the portfolio information and the state’s total system fuel mix allows consumers to compare their electricity portfolio to other portfolios offered by the retail supplier, as well as to California’s total system power mix.

AB 1110 (Ting, Chapter 656, Statutes of 2016) modified the PSD program and Power Content Label by requiring retail suppliers to disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity (the rate of emissions per unit of electricity) associated with each electricity portfolio beginning in 2020 for the 2019 reporting year. AB 1110 also requires the CEC to determine a format for disclosing unbundled renewable energy credits (REC)² as a percentage of annual retail sales.

To implement AB 1110, the Legislature tasked the CEC with the following:

- Adopt a method, in consultation with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), for calculating the GHG emissions intensity corresponding to each purchase of electricity by a retail supplier to serve its customers.
- Adopt guidelines for the reporting and disclosure of the GHG emissions intensity associated with retail sales on the Power Content Label.
- Adopt guidelines for the reporting and disclosure of unbundled RECs on the Power Content Label.

¹ Public Utilities Code, section 398.1, subd. (b).

² Renewable energy credits (RECs) are defined in the express terms. See References section for link to express terms.

- Establish guidelines for adjusting the GHG emissions intensity for a reporting year for any local publicly owned utility (POU) that demonstrates it generated quantities of electricity in previous years in excess of its total retail sales and wholesale sales from specified sources that do not emit any GHGs.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to identify and consider the potential environmental effects of actions that meet the definition of “project” under the statute, and, when feasible, to reduce any related significant adverse environmental impacts. Adoption of the proposed regulations involves discretionary decisions made by a public agency and has the potential to result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Thus, it constitutes a project under CEQA. (See Pub. Resources Code § 21065.) Therefore, the CEC has prepared this initial study to assess the potential significant effects of the proposed regulations on the environment.

Based on the initial study, staff concludes that the regulations will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, a negative declaration is the appropriate environmental document.

Description of Proposed Project

The project proposes statewide regulations to modify regulations governing the PSD program. The proposed regulations apply to retail suppliers³ who offer electricity portfolios to consumers in California. The proposed regulations implement AB 1110 by requiring retail suppliers to disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity (the rate of emissions per unit of electricity) associated with each electricity portfolio beginning in 2020 for the 2019 reporting year. AB 1110 also requires the CEC to determine a format for disclosing unbundled RECs as a percentage of annual retail sales.

The proposed regulations relevant to this initial study are contained in:

Modification of Regulations Governing the Power Source Disclosure Program (Express Terms), California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Sections 1390 Through 1394, AB 1110 Rulemaking, Docket Number 2016-OIR-05. TN #229686. Available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=229686&DocumentContentId=61107>.

All the documents listed above are available on the Energy Commission’s website <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=16-OIR-05> or by phone at (916) 654-5189 or by electronic mail from the Energy Commission’s Renewable Energy Office, by submitting a request to Jordan.Scavo@energy.ca.gov.

Location of Project

Statewide.

Proposed Finding

The attached initial study demonstrates, and the CEC proposes to find, that the proposed modifications to the PSD program regulations will not have any significant adverse effect on the environment.

The implementation of AB 1110 modifies the reporting obligations by retail suppliers under the PSD program, including the addition of GHG emissions and unbundled RECs reporting requirements. The PSD program and the AB 1110 implementation do not directly require any changes to procurement of energy resources; the program

³ AB 1110 defines a retail supplier to include investor owned utilities, local publicly owned electric utilities, community choice aggregators, and electric service providers.

regulations require reporting of energy procurement details to the CEC and information about the makeup of electricity portfolios to their customers.

As outlined in the document titled *Appendix A: Economic Impact Assessment for Implementing Assembly Bill 1110 Power Source Disclosure Regulations*, the proposed regulations may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to AB 1110 will not result in the development or construction of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators within the state. The proposed regulations will not result in the creation or elimination of any jobs within California. Additionally, the proposed regulations will not result in the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing business. Finally, the proposed regulations will not expand any existing businesses doing business in California and there will be no direct benefits of power source reporting to the health and welfare of California residents, to worker safety, or to the state's environment.⁴

⁴ California Energy Commission. (May 15, 2019). *Appendix A: Economic Impact Assessment for Implementing Assembly Bill 1110 Power Source Disclosure Regulations*. Docket # 16-OIR-05. TN #229689. Retrieved from <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=229689&DocumentContentId=61108>.

Initial Study

The following is the CEC's analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed project using the initial study environmental checklist.

Table 1. Lead and Responsible Agencies

Project Title	<i>Modification of Regulations Governing the Power Source Disclosure Program, Docket No. 16-OIR-05</i>
Lead Agency Name and Address	California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street–MS 45, Sacramento, California, 95814
Contact Person and Phone Number	Jordan Scavo, Renewable Energy Office, Renewable Energy Division, Jordan.Scavo@energy.ca.gov (916) 654-5189
Project Description	The project consists of modifications to regulations governing the Power Source Disclosure program. Modifications to the program include the requirement that retail suppliers report and disclose the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of each electricity portfolio beginning in 2020 and unbundled RECs as a percentage of annual retail sales.
Responsible Agencies	None
Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)	None
Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3?	No

Source: 2019 CEQA Handbook Appendix G and California Energy Commission

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The CEC concludes no environmental factors in Table 2 would be potentially affected by the project.

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

Table 2 lists specific potential issues for each of the environmental factors assessed.

Table 2: Specific Potential Issues

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099 would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact to aesthetics and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. <u>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.</u> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
<p>a) Convert Prime farmland, Unique farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p>				X
<p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p>				X
<p>c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?</p>				X
<p>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>				X
<p>e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</p>				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact to agricultural and forestry resources and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</p>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				X
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				X
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse impact to the air quality concerns listed above.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on biological resources and no impact on the specific concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in Section 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				X
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on any cultural resources and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>VI. Energy.</u> Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?				X
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact to energy and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?				X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact to geology and soils and no impact on the specific concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse greenhouse gas emissions and will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</u> Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on hazards and hazardous material and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.</u> Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?				X
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				X
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				X
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;				X
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				X
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				X
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse impact to hydrology and water quality and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING.</u> Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact to land use and planning and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.				
<u>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse impact to mineral resources and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XIII. NOISE.</u> Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no noise impact and no impact on the specific concerns listed above.				
<u>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</u> Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on population and housing and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.</u>				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				X
Fire protection?				X
Police protection?				X
Schools?				X
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will not have no impact on public services or governmental facilities and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.				
<u>XVI. RECREATION.</u>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on recreation and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XVII. TRANSPORTATION.</u> Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				X
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on transportation and no impact on any of the specific concerns listed above.</p>				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.</u>				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				X
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				X
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on landscape, sacred places, or objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.</u> Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the providers' existing commitments?				X
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				X
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse impact on utilities and service systems and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XX. WILDFIRE.</u> If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				X
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				X
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				X
COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no impact on wildfire and no impact on any of the concerns listed above.				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</u>				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X
<p>COMMENT: The proposed project may result in procurement changes by California retail suppliers. However, the CEC expects any procurement changes to be limited to increased imports of hydroelectricity from the Pacific Northwest and reductions of in-state or imported electricity derived from natural gas or unspecified power. Consequently, any procurement changes in response to this proposed project will not result in the development of new electricity generators or increased operations of existing electricity generators in the state. Therefore, the proposed regulations will have no adverse impact on any of the concerns listed in the above checklist. No potential exists for any adverse impacts on any animal or human populations, and none of the impacts are cumulatively considerable. The project’s purpose is to modify existing regulations that require electric suppliers to comply with program rules and reporting requirements intended to provide consumers “accurate, reliable, and simple to understand information on the sources of energy that are used to provide electric services.”</p>				

Source: 2019 CEQA Handbook Appendix G and California Energy Commission

References

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Acronyms and Glossary

<u>Term</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Definition</u>
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	A statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.
REC	Renewable Energy Credit	A certificate of proof associated with the generation of electricity from an eligible renewable energy resource, issued through the accounting system established by the CEC pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 399.25, that one unit of electricity was generated and delivered by an eligible renewable energy resource.
PRC	Public Resource Code	A legal code enacted by the California State Legislature