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October 7, 2019

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Written Comments on CEC IEPR Workshop on Near-Zero Carbon Electricity

Dear Commissioners:

Sierra Club California thanks the California Energy Commission (Commission) for hosting a workshop on near-zero carbon electricity. We believe it is important to develop policy actions that will decarbonize California's electrical system without delay. While exploring the goal to become "near-zero" is commendable, we strongly encourage the Commission to develop goals and processes to be completely carbon free. Policy recommendations must recognize that to meet our climate and greenhouse gas reduction goals, we must continue to reduce our reliance on gas and enable the expansion of clean resources and options, such as wind and storage.

Gas resources have no role in California's decarbonized electrical grid. Gas is not a "bridge" fuel. It is a highly potent climate-forcing pollutant that is detrimental to public health and the environment. It is imperative that California reduces its reliance on gas if our state is going to meet its climate targets and build a cleaner California. Given this, the Commission should assertively promote phasing out gas entirely and shifting to all-electric appliances, homes, buildings and cars.

It is imperative that policies do not fall back on relying on environmentally harming resources such as gas, nuclear, or biomass to meet requirements for 100% carbon-free electricity. California can reach its zero-carbon goals by supporting and expanding on clean technologies that are available today and technologies that are rapidly advancing to support clean, renewable energy, such as battery storage.

In sum, we urge the Commission to focus on getting to a zero-carbon grid while utilizing clean, renewable technologies. We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission on this effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cullum
Policy Advocate