

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	20-EPIC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Development of the California Energy Commission Electric Program Investment Charge Investment Plans 2021-2025
<b>TN #:</b>	238291
<b>Document Title:</b>	DBL Partners Comments - Investment in Wildfire Proceedings
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	DBL Partners
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/18/2021 3:00:42 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/18/2021

*Comment Received From: DBL Partners  
Submitted On: 6/18/2021  
Docket Number: 20-EPIC-01*

## **Investment in Wildfire Proceedings**

We write today on behalf of DBL Partners'™ portfolio of companies, which are united by their interest in a double bottom line – both a long-term financial success, as well as positive social, environmental and economic impact. As a double bottom line venture capital firm and pioneer of the impact investing category in venture capital, we hope that we can offer to the California Energy Commission a unique perspective for how we may tackle the many exciting and challenging opportunities for the Development of the California Energy Commission Electric Program Investment Charge Investment Plans 2021-2025.

From our vantage point, we have been excited to see the CEC place an increasing importance on the impact of wildfires and their role in meeting the state's™ energy and climate goals. As the EPIC website states: “The deadly and destructive fires of the past few years” highlight some of the impacts California can expect if greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically reduced.” Additionally, we were delighted to see the work done by the EPIC Policy + Innovation Coordination Group and the release of the February 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Workstream Report.

We recommend future investments in R&D solicitations and initiatives targeted at the role of wildfires and the impact they have on building a safe and resilient electricity system. Powerlines are cited as having caused over 1,500 California wildfires for one IOU between 2013 and 2019, including the Camp Fire, which killed at least 85 people last year and razed more than 18,800 structures. Not only do these fires affect California communities by causing loss of life and property, they also jeopardize the reliability and resiliency of our grid as transmission assets are some of the most at-risk assets across the state.

While there has been an increasing focus and emphasis on wildfires across many state budgets, and additional costs that rate payers are having to bear, we believe that this is a sector that has fundamentally suffered from a lack of R&D. Compared to other sectors within the cleantech sector and energy economy, we have not seen the same level of 21st century technology advancement nor investment in tools like AI detection software, imaging, drones, and more. While this creates challenges for our state, it also presents an exciting and important opportunity for the CEC EPIC Program. In addition, developing technology for more rapid response to wildfires, i.e., rapidly detecting and containing wildfires while they are small and manageable before they become large and costly, presents a compelling way to spend taxpayers'™ dollars more efficiently and minimize the damage of catastrophic wildfires.

DBL Partners and our wide array of portfolio companies appreciate the path the CEC is

taking towards wildfire mitigation. We are eager to partner with you, utilities, and new startups as new R&D initiatives are implemented to better tackle the climate crisis.