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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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Sacramento, California 95814
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CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)

IN THE MATTER OF: *Environmental Information for Energy Planning*	Docket No. 17-MISC-03 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY RE: Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on the Draft Staff Paper, *Calculating Parcelization in Electric System Planning*

Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on the Draft Staff Paper, *Calculating Parcelization in Electric System Planning*

[CEC-700-2023-007-SD]

California Energy Commission (CEC) staff are requesting public comment on a draft staff paper titled, *Calculating Parcelization in Electric System Planning: An Overview of Geographic Information System Methods for Assessing the Average Number of Unique Parcels in an Area for Long-Term Solar Resource Planning (https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=251376&DocumentContentId=86209).* The staff paper is available for public comment and the methods described were presented at a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Integrated Resource Plan Modeling Advisory Group webinar on July 18, 2023.

The ticket number (TN) is 25137 (*https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=251376&DocumentContentId=86209)*, and the paper is available in docket no. 17-MISC-03, at https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-03.

Background
Since 2008, the CEC, CPUC, and the California Independent System Operator have used spatial environmental and land use data to inform their relevant energy resource planning activities. Over time, the methods and data used have evolved, reflecting the availability of new information, new planning initiatives, and new factors influencing the deployment of renewable energy capacity. In parallel, California's climate and clean energy mandates have increased. The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 100, De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018), sets a 2045 target of supplying all retail electricity sold in California and state agency electricity needs with renewable and

zero-carbon resources. Senate Bill (SB) 100 also increased the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) procurement target to 60 percent of retail sales by December 31st, 2030, and requires all state agencies to incorporate the 2030 and 2045 targets into their relevant planning.

Over the last year, the CEC has led a public process to update the spatial environmental and land use data used in electric system planning processes. In October 2022, the CEC released a draft staff report titled, *Land-Use Screens for Electric System Planning: Using Geographic Information Systems to Model Opportunities and Constraints for Technical Renewable Resource Potential in California* (https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=246353). The report describes staff analysis and proposed updates to the methodology for using biodiversity, habitat, and cropland datasets to model renewable resource technical potential for onshore wind, solar photovoltaic, and geothermal resources for electric system modeling and resource planning. The CEC held an October 10, 2022, IEPR Commissioner Workshop on Land-Use Screens[1] to present the draft staff report. All workshop documents including the agenda and presentation are available on the workshop webpage and at docket no. 22-IEPR-02, at https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-IEPR-02.

On March 13, 2023, the CEC held a Commissioner Workshop on Land-Use Screens[2] to provide an update on progress to revise land-use screens for statewide electric system planning. All workshop documents including the agenda and presentation are available on the workshop webpage and at docket no. 21-SIT-01, at https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=21-SIT-01.

On July 18, 2023, the CEC released a final staff report titled, *Land-Use Screens for Electric System Planning: Using Geographic-Information Systems to Model Opportunities and Constraints for Renewable Resource Technical Potential in California* (https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=251073&DocumentContentId=86086). The report describes the final updates to the methodology for using biodiversity, habitat, and cropland datasets to model renewable resource technical potential for onshore wind, solar photovoltaic, and geothermal resources for electric system modeling and resource planning. The CEC 2023 Land-Use Screens for Electric System Planning web application was also released at this time, sharing and displaying the key datasets used in the land-use screens (https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/de6ab11146bf47068ff294d87780ce00).

Public comments on the land-use screens workshops and draft staff report recommended incorporating development feasibility factors into the statewide land-use evaluations for electric system planning. One such factor is parcelization, noted in public comment as one of the most important factors in influencing the ability to develop large

1 https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2022-10/iepr-commissioner-workshop-land-use-screens
2 https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2023-03/commissioner-workshop-land-use-screens

solar projects. Parcelization is a measure of the average number of unique parcels in an area. In the time since this information was received, CEC staff worked on creating methods to evaluate parcelization as a development feasibility factor for use as an additional land-use characteristic to inform long-term electricity system planning.

The draft staff paper provides a detailed description of the data processing procedure to create a statewide map of parcelization levels. CEC and CPUC staff propose to use this metric as part of the land-use and environmental information considered in the CPUC's development and mapping of resource portfolios, known as resource-to-busbar mapping, for the 2024-2025 California Independent System Operator Transmission Planning Process.[3] It may also be considered in other electric system planning proceedings for CEC and CPUC.

Public Comment

Written comments must be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-03 which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document consistent with title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1208.1. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 17-MISC-03 and Parcelization in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov. If preferred, a paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 17-MISC-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

Written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

3 https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-power-procurement/long-term-procurement-planning/2022-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/assumptions-for-the-2024-2025-tpp

Contacts
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Direct general and technical subject inquiries to Saffia Hossainzadeh at saffia.hossainzadeh@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4396.

Availability of Documents
Other documents and presentations related to this draft staff paper are available at Environmental Information for Energy Planning (https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/energy-infrastructure-and-environment/environmental-information-energy) or at Docket No. 17-MISC-03, https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-03.

Additional material, including the recorded webinar, presentation slides, and webinar Q&A related to this draft staff paper, are available at CPUC Assumptions for the 2024-2025 Transmission Planning Process (TPP) (https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-power-procurement/long-term-procurement-planning/2022-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/assumptions-for-the-2024-2025-tpp).

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Dated: July 31, 2023, at Sacramento, California

Subscription Topics: Energy System Infrastructure Planning, Integrated Resource Plans, Electricity Issues, Integrated Energy Policy Report, General Renewable Energy Info and CEC Renewable Energy Programs, Geothermal Energy, Joint-Agency Report – SB 100, Wind Energy and Avian Mortality, Solar Equipment, Climate Change Issues