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Environment California comments on non-energy benefits workshop

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Siva Gunda, Vice Chair
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 30, 2024

RE: Comments on 2025 Senate Bill 100 Report Non-Energy Benefits Workshop

Dear Vice Chair Gunda,

Thank you for hosting this workshop and for taking leadership on integrating non-energy benefits and social costs into the SB 100 report. It is clear that we need to appropriately incorporate these factors into agency analyses, policies, and programs so that we are equipped to make the best energy decisions and investments that benefit society the most.

The joint agencies are long overdue in considering the environmental, public health, and other local benefits in deciding which energy resources to prioritize in our journey to 100% clean energy. Failure to consider these benefits can lead to counterproductive regulatory outcomes that jeopardize our clean energy progress, like how failure to consider the appropriate benefits and costs derailed California's booming rooftop solar market. We can no longer afford to stack the deck against clean energy investments with the greatest societal benefits.

Clean energy brings numerous benefits that should be considered in state decision making such as improved local air quality by displacing polluting gas plants; increased resilience to extreme weather and power outages; local economic benefits; and avoided land use impacts by decreasing the need for utility transmission infrastructure—which also keeps electricity bills down.

Please incorporate robust, quantifiable non-energy benefits and social costs into the SB 100 report's analysis and scenarios so we have the information needed to maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Steven King
Clean Energy Advocate
Environment California