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To: Commissioner John Geesman and Commissioner Jeffrey Byron
From: Kathy Mannion
Director of Water and Power
Date: June 28, 2007
Re: Transmission Corridor Designation Workshop
Docket No. 07-OIR-1

DOCKET	
07-OIR-1	
DATE	JUN 28 2007
RECD.	JUN 29 2007

The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) appreciates the opportunity to submit preliminary comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on the proposed draft regulations governing an electric transmission corridor designation process.

As you know, RCRC was an active participant in the negotiations on SB 1059 (Chapter 638, Statutes of 2006) which authorized the CEC to designate transmission corridor zones. Our preliminary review of the staff draft regulations is favorable in that it conforms with the intent of SB 1059 as it relates to interaction with local government and the public, including all property owners who are within or adjacent to a proposed transmission corridor zone.

Public Notification. Section 2405 (a) (3) provides for the notification and transmittal of a copy of the application be sent to counties, among others, having a jurisdictional interest in the proposed transmission corridor zone. RCRC suggests that this notification be sent to the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors and to the Planning Department of the counties having a jurisdictional interest in the proposed transmission corridor zone.

Reimbursement. RCRC appreciates that Section 2407 provides for reimbursement to cities and counties to cover the actual and added costs of review of a proposed transmission corridor zone. RCRC requests that the CEC also consider reimbursement for the actual and added costs for the city or county to revise its General Plan and/or zoning regulations as the result of the designation by the CEC of a transmission corridor zone.

Appendix G specifies the information requirements for a corridor designation application. "Project Description" includes a requirement that the appendix include a list of current assessor's parcel numbers and owners' names and addresses for all parcels within and out to 500 feet of the outer boundaries of the proposed transmission corridor. RCRC suggests that the CEC consider expanding this to one-half of a mile. The section entitled "Land Use" specifies the components relating to types of land that must be identified in the application. RCRC urges that this section also include the requirement that lands under Williamson Act contract be identified.

In conclusion, RCRC may submit additional comments as a result of outreach to RCRC member counties. RCRC looks forward to working with the CEC throughout the process of developing the regulations.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (916) 447-4806 or at kmannion@rcrcnet.org.