



TRANSMISSION AGENCY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**Comments from the
Transmission Agency of Northern California
Regarding the Draft 2009 Strategic Transmission Investment Plan
(Docket 09-IEP-1D; 2009 IEPR – Transmission)
October 23, 2009**

The Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) is pleased to offer the following comments regarding the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Draft *2009 Strategic Transmission Investment Plan* (STIP). TANC was formed in 1984 as a Joint Powers Agency consisting of 15 cities and other public utilities¹ to jointly develop transmission to meet the needs of its members. TANC currently owns approximately 87 percent of the 500-kV California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP) and has transmission rights contracted from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). TANC is a member of WestConnect, WestTTrans, and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, and is registered at North American Electric Reliability Corporation as a Transmission Owner, Transmission Planner, and a Transmission Service Provider.

TANC has previously provided information to the CEC regarding the proposed TANC Transmission Project (TTP) for consideration in the Strategic Transmission Investment Plan (STIP). TANC had also coordinated its efforts in planning the TTP with the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) group. As is well documented, TANC has terminated its efforts to permit the TTP, however, TANC continues to explore and coordinate its transmission planning options to help its members meet their renewable energy needs. TANC continues to seek for potential partnerships and is working with other organizations such as the California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG). To that end, TANC supports the inclusion into the Second Priority of transmission line recommendations, several segments from the TTP. The line segments identified as - Tracy-Alpha Four 500-kV 1&2, Tesla-Newark 230-kV and the Tracy-Livermore-East Bay 230-kV - will aid in allowing renewable and other energy to reach Northern California load centers economically and reliability. TANC also supports the inclusion of the Gregg-Alpha Four 500-kV line for similar reasons.

¹ TANC's membership currently consists of the California cities of Alameda, Biggs, Gridley, Healdsburg, Lodi, Lompoc, Palo Alto, Redding, Roseville, Santa Clara, and Ukiah; the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD); the Modesto Irrigation District (MID); and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative is an associate member of TANC.

TANC recommends that the CEC also consider the line connecting Tracy Substation to the SMUD system in its list of Second Priority line segments. This 43 mile segment, identified in the RETI process as DillardRoad-Tracy2, would further enhance the deliverability of renewable energy to the Northern California loads in Sacramento.

TANC is fully participating in the CTPG and welcomes the CEC's inclusion of the CTPG into its conception of a statewide planning process. The CTPG, with representatives of Transmission Owners in California, represents an important step toward a strong, reliable, and economic statewide transmission system that will help meet California's various energy goals. TANC supports the STIP recommendation that the CTPG role in coordinated statewide planning be as the primary source for developing a statewide transmission plan, long and short term, for the CEC to consider in its bi-annual transmission and corridor designation processes related to STIP. TANC anticipates that the CTPG will work diligently with the CEC in making sure that the transmission planning process has wide stakeholder input.

The various and sometimes contradictory, energy, environmental, and economic policies of the state make for a difficult, challenging, and potentially expensive road for California. Careful integrated planning at a statewide level, combined with the individual needs of the state's Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs), will be needed. TANC commends the CEC in its attempts to meet all these challenges.