

Save the Foothills Coalition
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DOCKET

11-IEP-1

DATE

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California Energy Commission
Docket office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
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In the matter of Docket 11-IEP-1

Draft Committee Revised Scoping Order Preparation of 2011 IEPR

Dear Chair Wisenmiller and Associate Commissioner Douglas,

The Save the Foothills Coalition (STFC) is a consumer organization whose members reside in communities located in the Central Sierra foothills of Fresno and Tulare Counties. The STFC was formed in 2008 in response to our members being adversely affected by Investor Owned Utilities plans to build a 500 KV double circuit transmission line through our communities. Hence the STFC began what has become a years long struggle to be informed by and engaged in California's various electrical and energy infrastructure planning and approval processes.

The STFC members are part of an often-missing group of market participants that should be providing information to planning activities and processes related to California's electrical infrastructure. The STFC believes that other market participants, entities and even many consumers themselves underestimate the perspective that consumers can bring to these processes. Since consumers are

expected to bear the societal and monetary costs associated with energy infrastructure planning activities, this reason alone should be viewed as sufficient to include and encourage the consumers' perspective.

Understanding the tasks of the various entities and agencies involved is one the primary challenges met by consumers attempting to be engaged in the planning processes. In this regard, the STFC finds the Energy Commission's reports to be most helpful. Moreover, we view the Integrated Energy Policy Report as the compendium that offers the best overview of past, present and future activities that are involved in and comprising our state's energy system.

The 2011 IEPR is the second that STFC membership has followed. In 2009 the Commission's IEPR pointed out the challenges facing California's stakeholders in the implementation of policy goals. The 2009 IEPR observation regarding the lack of coordination among groups involved in the implementation of policy was an accurate and a fitting description. While the entities and agencies have made significant improvements in communication and to some extent coordination of their various efforts, the STFC sees a continuing lack of unified assumptions and vision.

The STFC believes that the Draft Revised Committee Scoping Order has incorporated thoughtful and specific approaches. The STFC is confident that clearly beneficial policies will compel all stakeholders to work towards California's clean energy future, in a more unified manner.

Thank you for your efforts,

Ron Dickerson,
Save the Foothills Coalition