

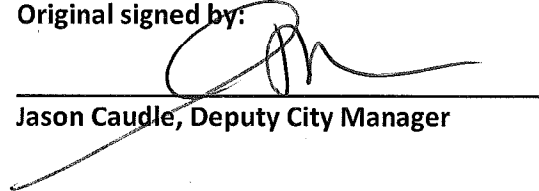
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Public Comments in the matter of Preparation of the 2011 Integrated Energy Policy Report.  
Docket 11-IEP-1G.

Submitted by:  
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On behalf of  
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**Executive Summary**

High Desert Power Authority agrees with the general conclusions and recommended strategies as described in the Executive Summary of draft *Renewable Power in California: Status and Issues* report.

However, regarding the Transmission Issues section starting on Page 9, Table ES-5 is incomplete in that it does not include the AV Clearview Transmission Project that has been under development for over two years. Just as importantly, the Table lacks critical data that is required for the CEC and other agencies to make any meaningful evaluation of impending transmission projects.

Specifically, without inclusion of 1) some measure of economic cost (for example, cost per MW of renewable generation accessed) and 2) some measure (even if only qualitative) of the environmental impact of the various transmission projects, then the CEC runs the risk of painting itself in the same corner the CAISO finds itself: inclusion of projects in the Statewide Transmission Plan that are completely devoid of any economic or environmental evaluation or consideration.

The CAISO's ineffectual process has had serious consequences: projects already included in the CAISO Statewide Transmission Plan have permitting challenges so great that they are unlikely to be overcome in the CPUC permitting process, resulting in more uncertainty, more delays, less jobs and greater cost to the ratepayers. The objective of this CEC process is not to meet the RPS standards *at any cost*, but to meet our renewable energy goals in the most efficient, economical and environmentally sensible manner, which the hallmark of prudent governance.

Most critically, as described below, the AV Clearview Project is *the only* transmission project that will enable ARRA-driven projects east of Kramer to be built and on line before the 2016 deadline regarding the expiration of the Section 48 Investment Tax Credit.

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## **Background:**

The High Desert Power Authority is a Joint Powers Authority between the City of Lancaster and the City of Pittsburg.

The City of Lancaster's mission through the Lancaster Power Authority is to foster the development of renewable generation in the Antelope Valley, which is ideal for solar energy because of the excellent solar resource, abundance of previously disturbed, privately owned, agricultural land, proximity to load and community support of renewable energy.

The City of Pittsburg through its Pittsburg Power Company brings its expertise as an owner of energy infrastructure and as a developer of generation and transmission assets.

Together, as High Desert Power Authority, these two municipal utilities are working with other advocates, such as Edwards Air Force Base and Kern County to develop, permit and construct the AV Clearview Transmission Project.

## **The Project:**

The AV Clearview Transmission Project consists of:

- A multiple circuit, underground north-south segment which connects a new substation named Yeager located on the northern boundary of Edwards Air Force base and extends south to the community of Littlerock to a new substation named Tucker.
- Tucker substation at the southern terminus will interconnect with the SCE Vincent-Lugo Lines, and is also capable of interconnecting with the adjacent LADWP Rinaldi-Victorville and Toluca-Adelanto lines, allowing renewable generation to flow to LADWP and providing a strategic additional interconnection between California's two largest balancing authorities.
- A multiple circuit, overhead east-west segment from the new Yeager substation west to the existing SCE Windhub substation
- The new Yeager substation will also splice into the existing SCE Kramer-Edwards line which will become a new Kramer-Yeager line
- The new Kramer-Yeager line may be reconductored and energized at a higher voltage by SCE or, alternately, High Desert Power Authority can reinforce the SCE line at a higher voltage on a new higher voltage Kramer-Yeager line constructed on Edwards AFB right of way. This configuration of the AV Clearview Project will not only facilitate the ARRA-driven solar projects east of Kramer Junction, but is the *only* transmission project that can be permitted and constructed in time for the ARRA-driven projects to be constructed before the December 31, 2016 expiration of the solar Investment Tax Credit.
- The new Yeager substation can also include integrated, "substation-level" energy storage (as opposed to energy storage at each individual renewable generator) that will efficiently and economically support better integration of the intermittent wind and solar generators interconnected line.
- Both AC and HVDC options exist for the underground portion (between the Yeager and Tucker substations) of the Project. The AC option is a double-circuit 345kV design with a line capacity of 2,100 MW. The DC option is a  $\pm 300$  kV design with a line capacity of 1,000 MW per circuit, with three such circuits anticipated in the event of reconductoring of the Kramer-Yeager line and interconnection at the Tucker substation to both the Vincent-Lugo line and the adjacent LADWP lines. The HVDC design is based on state-

of-the-art voltage source converters and uses high frequency PWM allowing for independent control of both active and reactive power. Besides the extraordinary carrying capacity with only 2 cables per circuit, the HVDC design has the added benefits of significantly upgraded grid stability and facilitating better integration of intermittent generation.

The underground portion of the project will be built along county road utility right of way in Los Angeles County, Edwards Air Force Base, and the City of Lancaster. The route of the overhead portion of the project is a combination of right of way on Edwards AFB, right of way controlled by Kern County and other right of way in Kern County (see map below).



## Schedule

Permitting of the project will commence this month with Kern County and the City of Lancaster as co-lead agencies under CEQA and Edwards AFB the lead agency under NEPA. It is estimated that permitting will be complete in Q4 2012 or Q1 2013, followed shortly thereafter by construction start.

Permitting studies are considering both the AC and HVDC design versions of the transmission line and substations. The permitting process will also include the option to reinforce the Kramer-Yeager (currently Kramer-Edwards) line to 500 kV (initially energized at 230 kV) in order to support the interconnection of ARRA-related solar projects located east of the Kramer substation. Construction of the AV Clearview Project is estimated to take 24 months, with a commissioning date in the first quarter of 2015.

## **Comparative Advantages**

Relative to projects “south of Kramer”, the AV Clearview Transmission project:

- The AV Clearview Transmission Project can be completed 2-3 years sooner enabling the creation of thousands of high-paying construction jobs in 2013, 2014 and 2015 instead of later in the decade
- The AV Clearview Transmission Project is substantially less expensive in terms of dollar price per MW of renewable generation capacity accessed by the grid
- The AV Clearview Transmission Project will have substantially less environmental impact than proposed projects “south of Kramer”. In fact, the Lugo-Pisgah and Red Bluff projects, according to Southern California Edison, “face extraordinary commercial and licensing risks. Both Lugo-Pisgah and Red Bluff will cross near the habitats of several protected species (including the desert tortoise, and several species of desert plants), requiring complex environmental reviews under both state and federal law.”<sup>1</sup> SCE uses the same language describing the Cool Water-Lugo Project: “South of Kramer will cross near the habitats of several protected species (including the desert tortoise and several species of desert plants) and will require complex environmental reviews under both state and federal law.”<sup>2</sup>
- The probability of the AV Clearview Project receiving a permit to construct is significantly greater than the “south of Kramer” projects currently in the CAISO Statewide Transmission Plan. Uncertainty is the worst enemy of developers and it is common knowledge in the industry that the phrase “inclusion in the CAISO Statewide Plan does not guarantee a CPCN from the CPUC” refers specifically to “south of Kramer” projects.
- AV Clearview can provide grid access to ARRA-supported generation projects at a tremendous savings to the ratepayers of California via the local PTO reconductoring the Kramer-Yeager (currently Kramer-Edwards) line or by High Desert Power Authority reinforcing that line with a new 500 kV line on Edwards AFB right of way.

## **Table ES-5**

It is imperative that the CEC include some measure of both economic and environmental cost to Table ES-5. High Desert Power Authority has made a first cut at adding critical information to Table ES-5 of the Executive Summary based on publically available information but will leave it to the Commission to complete this task with its better access to this type of data.

In addition, the Commission should provide references to the information contained in Table ES-5. For example, Table ES-5 lists the “Deliverability Potential of Lugo-Pisgah as 1,750 MW where in the SCE Petition to FERC speaks of “transmission capacity [of] at least 1,400 MW.”<sup>3</sup> Table ES-5 lists the “Deliverability Potential” of the Sunrise Powerlink Project at 1,700 MW at a cost of \$1,000M whereas the CPUC indicates that the capacity of the line is 1,000 MW and is

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<sup>1</sup> Page 33 of Southern California Edison Company’s Petition for Declaratory Order under EL10-81, Vol. 1, Aug 4, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13837704](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13837704)

<sup>2</sup> Page 30 of Southern California Edison Company’s Petition for Declaratory Order under EL11-10, Vol. 1, Dec 9, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13872460](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13872460)

<sup>3</sup> Page 3 of Southern California Edison Company’s Petition for Declaratory Order under EL10-81, Vol. 1, Aug 4, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13837704](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13837704)

estimated to cost \$1.256 M<sup>4</sup> and the SDG&E website indicates capacity of 1,000 MW and a cost of \$1,883M<sup>5</sup>.

Finally, the Commission should define the term “Deliverability Potential” in Table ES-5 and distinguish between “Deliverability Potential” and “Line Capacity” (a somewhat more precise term) of each project in the Table.

## **Conclusions**

California desperately needs transmission infrastructure investment to provide access to renewable generation, improve system stability, create jobs, and leverage federal subsidies. Our high desert communities strongly support this project because the AV Clearview transmission line represents smart, near-term investment in our state infrastructure and our solar future.

The AV Clearview Transmission Project is a lower cost, environmentally responsible alternative transmission proposal that can enable the same amount of renewable generation as the proposed Pisgah-Lugo, Coolwater-Lugo and Barren Ridge projects combined. It is the only project that can be permitted and constructed to enable interconnection of ARRA-driven projects before the 2016 expiration of the investment tax credit. It is the only project that starts the permitting process with unprecedented support of local governments and Edwards Air Force Base (which views the AV Clearview Project as a means to fulfill Department of Defense renewable energy mandates as well as increase the energy security of the Base, which, in turn, enhances the mission readiness of the Base).

We ask that the AV Clearview Transmission Project be included as a baseline project in the Executive Summary and we invite the California Energy Commission to become an advocate of the project to the CAISO, CTPG and CPUC.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Environment/Current+Projects/A0512014.htm>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/docs/srpl\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/docs/srpl_whitepaper.pdf)

Balancing Authority	Transmission	Served CREZ	Cumulative Renewable Deliverability Potential (MW) With Upgrade	Expected Commercial On-Line Date	Total Cost, \$M	Cost per MW Accessed to Grid	Environmental Impact
CAISO	Sunrise Powerlink (new 500 kV and 230 kV lines)	Imperial North and South, San Diego S	4,700 1,000	2012	\$1,000 1,883	1.88 <sup>6</sup>	TBD
CAISO	Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project	Tehachapi, Fairmont	4,500	2015	\$2,100	0.47	LOW
CAISO	Colorado River	Riverside East, Palm Springs	4,700 combined with West of Devers project	2013	?	?	TBD
CAISO	Eldorado-Ivanpah 115 to 230 kV conversion	Mountain Pass	1,400	2013	\$483	\$0.35	MIXED <sup>7</sup>
CAISO	Borden-Gregg (230 kV line reconductoring)	Westlands	800	2015	TBD	TBD	TBD
CAISO	South of Contra Cost reconductoring	Solano	535	2015	TBD	TBD	TBD
CAISO	Pisgah-Lugo 230 kV to 500 kV conversion	Pisgah, Mountain Pass	1,400 <sup>8</sup> -1,750	2017	740	\$0.53	HIGH <sup>9</sup>
CAISO	Carrizo-Midway sections of Morro Bay-Midway (230 kV lines reconductoring)	Carrizo South, Santa Barbara	900	2012	TBD	TBD	TBD
CAISO	Coolwater-Jasper-Lugo (new 230 kV line and other upgrades)	Kramer	700	2018	\$542	\$0.77	HIGH <sup>10</sup>
CAISO	AV Clearview – 345 kV Design	Tehachapi, Fairmont	2,100	2015	\$890	\$0.42	LOW <sup>11</sup>
CAISO	AV Clearview – HVDC Design	Tehachapi, Fairmont, Kramer	3,000+	2015	\$1,200	\$0.42	LOW
CAISO/IID	Path 42 Upgrades	Imperial Valley	1,400	2015	TBD	TBD	TBD
IID	Internal IID Upgrades	Imperial Valley	See above	2011+	TBD	TBD	TBD
LADWP	Barren Ridge	Tehachapi, Barren Ridge	1,000	2016	TBD	TBD	TBD

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/docs/srpl\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/docs/srpl_whitepaper.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Low impact for reconductoring the Eldorado-Ivanpah line; extreme impact from enabling the Brightsource Ivanpah Generation Project: See <http://www.pe.com/local-news/topics/topics-environment-headlines/20110427-mojave-desert-solar-project-would-disturb-thousands-of-tortoises.ece>

<sup>8</sup> Page 3 of Southern California Edison Company Petition for Declaratory Order under EL10-81, Volume 1, Aug 4, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13837704](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13837704)

<sup>9</sup> Page 5 of Southern California Edison Company's Petition for Declaratory Order under EL10-81, Volume 1, Aug 4, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13837704](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13837704): "The Projects face extraordinary commercial and licensing risks. Both Lugo-Pisgah and Red Bluff will cross near the habitats of several protected species (including the desert tortoise, and several species of desert plants), requiring complex environmental reviews under both state and federal law."

<sup>10</sup> Page 30 of Southern California Edison Company's Petition for Declaratory Order under EL11-10, Volume 1, Dec 9, 2010 available at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File\\_list.asp?document\\_id=13872460](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/File_list.asp?document_id=13872460): "South of Kramer will cross near the habitats of several protected species (including the desert tortoise and several species of desert plants) and will require complex environmental reviews under both state and federal law."

<sup>11</sup> Transmission mostly underground; enables renewable generation on previously disturbed, privately owned agriculture land near load centers

