

## Energy - Docket Optical System

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**From:** Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Marvin Schafer [schaferdds@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 11:13 AM  
**To:** Energy - Docket Optical System  
**Subject:** Docket No. 13-IEP-1 -- Comments on Petition for Societal Cost-Benefit Evaluation of California's Net Energy Metering Program

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**13-IEP-01**

TN # 71398

JUNE 24 2013

Jun 24, 2013

Chair California Energy Commission Robert Weisenmiller

Dear Chair California Energy Commission Weisenmiller,

For the last 9 years, the electricity for my home and small business comes almost entirely from the rooftop solar panels I installed. On many days in the spring, summer, and fall, the energy my large 10,000 watt PV array pumps extra energy into the grid. It goes up my utility pole, across the street, and down the nearby utility poles into the high school and businesses who have their air conditioners on. Since they are so close, very little of the utility infrastructure is used. This makes much more sense than "piping" electricity from a distant power plant.

Why should I have to pay a tax or additional fees for helping my utility company meet their peak electricity demand?

Distributed solar and net metering benefit all ratepayers. The excess energy is 100 percent clean and goes to the nearest neighbors of those with solar power, said Tom Beach, principal at Crossborder Energy, the Berkeley, Calif.-based consulting firm that produced the study.

"It uses almost none of the utility's transmission and distribution system," Beach said of the surplus solar power. The utility doesn't have to generate energy from a distant power plant, he said, or add transmission lines all over the state. Those savings in the distribution system benefit other utility customers, he said.

I support the petition submitted on June 5, 2013 by the Sierra Club, American Lung Association in California and other parties requesting that the California Energy Commission (CEC) perform a societal cost-benefit evaluation of California's Net Energy Metering Program.

Rooftop solar generates huge benefits for Californians such as myself. Thanks to policies like net metering, schools are saving money, the air is cleaner, and tens of thousands of Californians have headed back to work.

Rooftop solar plays a critical role in reducing the need for dirty natural gas peaker plants and is an important way for individuals to help fight climate change.

These and other societal benefits should be quantified for consideration by policymakers. In the absence of a comprehensive analysis like the one proposed to the CEC, it will be challenging to have a fair debate about the best way to increase the use of rooftop solar.

I respectfully request that you grant the petition and perform the societal cost-benefit study requested by the petitioners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marvin Schafer  
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