

**BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

In the Matter of Developing Regulations and  
Guidelines for the 33 Percent Renewables  
Portfolio Standard

Docket No. 11-RPS-01

California Energy Commission

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**COMMENTS OF THE LARGE-SCALE SOLAR ASSOCIATION ON WORKSHOP TO  
SCOPE A FUTURE EDITION OF THE RENEWABLES PORTFOLIO STANDARD  
ELIGIBILITY GUIDEBOOK**

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The Large-scale Solar Association (“LSA”) submits these comments on the California Energy Commission’s (“CEC’s”) January 28<sup>th</sup> Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) Guidebook Scoping Workshop (the “Workshop”). LSA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Workshop and offers comments below on the issues of precertification, certification and the applicability of changes in the RPS program and guidebooks to existing facilities.

**1. Precertification and Certification**

The Workshop addressed several issues related to the current precertification and certification requirements, including a proposal to eliminate the precertification requirement due to concerns about both the staff workload necessary to administer the precertification requirement and the overall usefulness of the requirement. LSA has observed that precertification provides limited value and believes that it may no longer be necessary given the overall maturity of the RPS market. As such, LSA would support the CEC eliminating the precertification

requirement as long as this change includes a transition period in order to account for projects that are not yet online but have precertification requirements in their contracts. Implementing a transition period will also allow the market time to adjust to the elimination of precertification.

In conjunction with this change, LSA strongly recommends the CEC consider changes to the certification process so that it is possible to obtain certification prior to commencement of commercial operations. A revised certification process could commence either once all environmental permits are obtained or at the start of construction and include a requirement that a notice of commercial status be submitted to the CEC for the certification to be placed on active status. LSA also suggests the CEC amend the RPS Guidebook so that facility certification dates be effective (once approved) based on date of submission of certification, not the date of final CEC approval, consistent with the current precertification process.

## **2. Application of new RPS requirements to previously certified facilities**

One of the other issues covered during the Workshop was how and whether the CEC should apply changes to the RPS and resulting revised RPS Guidebooks to existing facilities. LSA agrees with the general sentiment expressed by stakeholders during the Workshop that any changes to the CEC's rules and RPS Guidebooks should be applied prospectively. Unless otherwise required by law, the RPS Guidebook in place at the time of certification should govern existing RPS facilities. However, we note that there may be situations where a facility may choose to be governed under updated rules (for example due to new rules on the treatment of

storage) and facilities should be able to choose to be governed by the most updated version of the RPS Guidebook by amending their RPS certification.

## **CONCLUSION**

LSA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the issues above and looks forward to working with the CEC and other stakeholders on the next version of the RPS Guidebook.

Respectfully submitted,

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