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Memorandum

To: Chair David Hochschild
Commissioner Karen Douglas
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Commissioner Patty Monahan
Commissioner Janea A. Scott

Date: April 21, 2020

From: Drew Bohan
Executive Director

Subject: APPROVAL OF A CITY OF RIVERSIDE EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE FILING

On March 25, 2020, the City of Riverside (Riverside) submitted a compliance filing requesting the California Energy Commission (CEC) find that Riverside's covered procurement for biomass energy from the Weed Cogeneration Plant be determined to be compliant with the CEC Greenhouse Gases Emission Performance Standard (EPS), pursuant to Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, §2900, et seq.

Senate Bill 1368 (Perata, Chapter 598, Statutes of 2006) limits long-term investments in baseload generation by the state's utilities to power plants that meet an EPS jointly established by the CEC and the California Public Utilities Commission. The CO₂ emission rate limit is 1,100 pounds per megawatt-hour. The EPS establishes a public process for determining the compliance of proposed utility investments. Utilities are required to submit a compliance filing upon committing to an investment that is required to meet the EPS.

On March 17, 2020, Riverside's city council approved a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Roseburg Forest Products Co. for a term of five years. The PPA has a total capacity of 11 megawatts (MW) and Riverside's share is 0.4928 MW (4.48 percent). The Weed Cogeneration Plant has been in commercial operation since 2011 and is considered to be a renewable biomass power plant as it utilizes wood waste from the forest. The facility is certified under the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) with an RPS identification number of 60501.

Riverside is one of five buyers under the PPA. The other buyers are the Modesto Irrigation District, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the Southern California Public Power Authority, and the Turlock Irrigation District. The five buyers are procuring power for compliance with Senate Bill 859 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 368, Statutes of 2016). SB 859 requires local publicly owned electric utilities serving more than 100,000 customers to procure their proportionate shares of 125 MW of cumulative rated capacity from bioenergy projects for terms of at least five years.

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Staff has evaluated Riverside's compliance filing and concludes that the PPA is compliant with the EPS pursuant to §2903(b)(2); specifically, that the biomass facility listed in the PPA utilizes only biomass fuels that would otherwise be disposed of utilizing open burning, forest accumulation, spreading, composting, uncontrolled landfill, or landfill utilizing gas collection with flare or engine. Biomass includes but is not limited to agriculture waste, wood waste, and landfill gas. Staff recommends the CEC find that the covered procurement as described in Riverside's filing complies with the CEC's EPS, Title 20, §2900 et seq., of the California Code of Regulations.

Drew Bohan
Executive Director

Date