

**Response of the
California Transmission Planning Group Technical Steering Committee
To Comments of the
California Energy Commission**

January 19, 2009

The California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG) expresses its appreciation for the Comments of the California Energy Commission regarding the CTPG's Draft Study Plan as presented during the technical conference of December 17, 2009. The Technical Steering Committee is charged with the design and performance of the planning studies being performed by the CTPG and provides this response to the Energy Commission's Comments. In addition to the response provided here, the CTPG Technical Steering Committee advises the Energy Commission that many of the concerns and issues raised in the Commission's Comments will be addressed more completely as the work of the Technical Steering Committee progresses.

First, the CTPG Technical Steering Committee thanks the Energy Commission for its endorsement of the scope of the work being undertaken by the CTPG. We agree with the Energy Commission that the CTPG is performing a crucial task in the development of a transmission plan in support of California's goal of delivering thirty-three percent (33%) of the state's electricity from renewable resources by the Year 2020. The members of CTPG take this mission very seriously and we are grateful for both the support and resources the Commission offers to us in its Comments. The CTPG, and the Technical Steering Committee in particular, expect to rely on the Energy Commission's expert staff for input and strategic guidance on key elements of the transmission plan we are developing. The CTPG Technical Steering Committee is in full agreement with the Energy Commission's admonition that the CTPG's transmission planning work will be of little use if it does not lead to timely infrastructure additions that support attainment of the state's policy goals. The CTPG is committed to doing what is necessary to develop a transmission plan that meet's the state's objectives, protects consumer interests, minimizes adverse environmental consequences, and can be implemented with new towers, wires, operating procedures, and/or other suitable measures that mitigate identified reliability criteria violations. The CTPG members are contributing an extensive amount of resources needed to meet these objectives and the Commission's support for our work is very much welcomed.

As the Energy Commission acknowledges in its Comments, the work being done by CTPG represents an enormous undertaking. As a start-up organization that is in many respects still in its infancy, the CTPG has only begun the initial foundational work that sets the stage for the broader range of work that will go into the California-wide Transmission Plan. We have also begun to secure stakeholder input and will intensify this aspect of our processes as our work progresses. As recommended in the Energy Commission's comments, the CTPG is committed to reviewing the planning assumptions that will be applied in the California ISO's proposed Renewable Energy Transmission Planning Process (RETPP), the California Public Utilities Commission's Long-Term

Procurement Plan process, and the Energy Commission's Integrated Energy Policy Report process. In many respects, we expect that these processes will be relied upon to provide or validate planning assumptions for the future scenarios that the CTPG will be evaluating as part of our planning process. In this regard, the CTPG requests that the Energy Commission staff provide specific suggestions as to which specific assumptions it believes would be of greatest value in updating the CTPG's current draft conceptual transmission plan.

Finally, the CTPG fully recognizes the usefulness of California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) process in obtaining stakeholder input on matters relating to transmission infrastructure development in the State of California and will continue to work with RETI to maximize the value of that organization and its work. We have begun to address the manner in which our organizations can best integrate our efforts and coordinate our activities, and the CTPG and the Technical Steering Committee are confident we will reach mutually agreeable protocols for doing this. The CTPG understands the Energy Commission's interest in having the CTPG stakeholder process incorporate more than the steps that would meet the terms of Order 890 as issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and accepts that challenge as an appropriate aspiration for our organization.

Once again, we thank you for your comments and suggestions. We look forward to working with the Commission and its staff as we continue this important work.