



June 2, 2011

James Avery, Chairman  
California Transmission Planning Group  
San Diego Gas and Electric

Dear Mr. Avery:

The Vote Solar Initiative (Vote Solar) participated in the May 19<sup>th</sup> California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG) Stakeholder Teleconference and made oral comments regarding the CTPG's efforts to coordinate with other transmission planning groups. Vote Solar appreciates the opportunity to participate in stakeholder meetings and submit comments for CTPG's consideration.

Vote Solar commends the CTPG for its efforts to include stakeholder input and to reach out to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC), Southwest Area Transmission (SWAT) and other regional and sub-regional transmission planning groups. We note that CTPG was recently accepted for membership in TEPPC and look forward to CTPG's participation in WECC and TEPPC activities.

In comments we made on the CTPG Draft Phase 4 Study Plan on October 7, 2010, Vote Solar encouraged the CTPG to create a two-way dialogue with WECC and other sub-regional planning groups. We reiterate our recommendation that CTPG continue to find ways to actively and regularly engage with regional planning entities and in regional planning efforts, such as the DOE funded Regional Transmission Expansion Program (RTEP) that is being managed by WECC.

Particularly with the increasing emphasis on policy-driven resource and transmission planning, it is critical that planners across the western interconnection work together to find ways to meet energy policy and environmental goals that result in the least cost to consumers, consistent with reliability, security and sound environmental practices. Efforts such as WECC's Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG) and the SPSG's new Environmental Data Task Force report and recommendations on incorporating environmental and land use data in the transmission planning process, the Western Governor's Association Western Renewable Energy Zones Phase 3 & 4 efforts, and the investigation into an Energy Imbalance Market present excellent opportunities for CTPG to engage with planners across the region and to develop planning assumptions and data sets that are consistent across balancing areas.

Vote Solar looks forward to continued participation in the CTPG stakeholder process. Through our role as representatives on the SPSG, we offer any assistance to CTPG in developing a process to participate in other regional planning efforts and develop regular communication with other regional planning groups.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Baak", is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

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