

**California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG)
Technical Study Team Response to the
June 2, 2011, Comments of the Vote Solar Initiative (Vote Solar) on the
CTPG's Participation in Regional Planning Forums**

Comment:

The Vote Solar Initiative (Vote Solar) participated in the May 19th 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 the 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 subregional transmission planning groups. Vote Solar notes that the CTPG was recently accepted for membership in TEPPC and look forward to the CTPG's participation in WECC and TEPPC activities.

In comments Vote Solar 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 subregional planning groups. Vote Solar reiterates its recommendation that the CTPG continue to find ways to actively and regularly engage with regional planning entities and in regional planning efforts, such as the Department of Energy 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 and 4 efforts, and the investigation into an Energy Imbalance Market present excellent opportunities for the 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 its role as representatives on the SPSG, Vote Solar offers any assistance to the CTPG in developing a process to participate in other regional planning efforts and develop regular communication with other regional planning groups.

CTPG Technical Study Team Response:

The CTPG Technical Study Team agrees with Vote Solar's recommendation that the CTPG should continue to find ways to actively and regularly engage with regional planning entities and in regional planning efforts and appreciates Vote Solar's offer to provide assistance to the CTPG in developing a process to participate in other regional planning efforts and develop regular communication with other regional planning groups. Specific suggestions as to how the CTPG can most effectively participate in these regional planning efforts are always welcome.

As is evident from the number of regional planning initiatives mentioned in Vote Solar's comments, the ability of the CTPG to effectively participate in all of them is a daunting undertaking. The CTPG is hopeful that its active participation at the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) and the participation of the CTPG's members in certain regional planning groups and studies can be leveraged in a way that will give the CTPG good insight into the activities of other regional planning organizations across the WECC as well as to identify where and when the CTPG can most usefully provide input to those organizations.