

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-RETI-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0
<b>TN #:</b>	207293
<b>Document Title:</b>	Notice of 1/22/16 Staff Workshop
<b>Description:</b>	Notice of Staff Workshops of the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group and Transmission Technical Input Group for the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0, Friday, January 22, 2016
<b>Filer:</b>	clare Laufenberg
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	1/13/2016 1:56:00 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	1/13/2016

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



In the matter of:	)	Docket No. 15-RETI-02
	)	
<i>Renewable Energy Transmission</i>	)	NOTICE OF WORKSHOP RE:
<i>Initiative 2.0</i>	)	Renewable Energy Transmission
_____	)	Initiative 2.0

**Notice of Staff Workshops of the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group and Transmission Technical Input Group for the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0**

Staff of the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission and California Independent System Operator will host two workshops for the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0.

One or more Commissioners from the California Energy Commission and/or the California Public Utilities Commission may attend and participate in the workshop.

The staff workshops will be held:

**Friday, January 22, 2016**  
**Environmental and Land Use Technical Group**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Friday, January 22, 2016**  
**Transmission Technical Input Group**  
**1 p.m.**

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 Ninth Street  
First Floor, Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room  
Sacramento, California  
Wheelchair Accessible

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## Background

California is currently on a solid trajectory to meet the state's 33 percent renewable energy mandate by 2020 and the Assembly Bill 32 (Nuñez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In April 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a new statewide intermediate target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, in order to guide policy and maintain momentum to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

On October 7, 2015, Governor Brown signed the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), which requires electric utilities to prepare long-term plans to meet GHG goals, establishes targets to increase retail sales of qualified renewable electricity to at least 50 percent by 2030, and outlines a process for the regional expansion of the California Independent System Operator (California ISO). In addition, in August 2015, the federal Clean Power Plan was finalized, requiring every state to significantly reduce electricity-sector GHG emissions. Developing the transmission needed to support increasing amounts of renewable resources will be critical to meeting these goals and will require careful planning and coordination across the West.

In September 2015, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Energy Commission (Energy Commission), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California ISO, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management California Office initiated the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI 2.0) to facilitate the long-range planning, inter-agency coordination, and stakeholder engagement necessary to reach these goals with the lowest costs and greatest benefit. RETI 2.0 is a proactive, statewide, non-regulatory planning forum intended to identify the constraints and opportunities for new transmission to access and integrate new renewable resources and help meet the state's long-term GHG and renewable energy goals. In addition to energy, environmental, and agricultural stakeholders, RETI 2.0 will seek voluntary participation from tribal and local governments, public power entities, other western states, and regional energy planning bodies to help look for solutions that serve multiple interests.

Specifically, RETI 2.0 will:

- Explore combinations of renewable generation resources in California and throughout the West that can best meet goals.
- Identify land use and environmental opportunities and constraints to accessing these resources.
- Build understanding of transmission implications of renewable scenarios, and support for "least regrets" transmission investments.
- Inform future planning and regulatory proceedings.

The RETI 2.0 Organizational Structure establishes the RETI 2.0 Plenary Group as the primary forum to develop the RETI 2.0 work products. Generally, the Plenary Group will:

- Discuss and vet planning assumptions, utilizing data from the Energy Commission, CPUC, and California ISO, that support the overall goals of the RETI 2.0 process, in light of statewide GHG and renewable energy goals.
- Discuss qualitatively what the state should be looking for in selecting resource areas.
- Consider resource potential and environmental and land use information to assist with identifying lower conflict areas for potential renewable energy development.
- Construct and discuss conceptual combinations of renewable energy resource areas and associated transmission improvements that can help achieve California's 2030 climate and renewable energy goals.

The Organizational Structure also established two technical work groups to advise the primary RETI 2.0 Plenary Group. The Transmission Technical Group is focused on developing information and advising the Plenary Group on existing and planned transmission system capacity and the transmission implications of potential future resource combinations. The Environmental and Land Use Technical Group is charged with collecting available environmental and land use data, tools, and studies and advising the Plenary Group on the environmental implications of potential renewable resource and transmission combinations.

The Environmental and Land Use Technical Group (ELUTG) has held two workshops, on November 23, and December 4, 2015, to explore the available statewide environmental data and discuss various approaches to using the data to assess and compare areas for potential renewable energy generation. Also, stakeholders discussed how best to use available and recommended data to inform various agency energy and transmission planning processes and help define the RETI 2.0 Environmental and Land Use Technical Group process to ensure available environmental data is considered in the RETI 2.0 initiative. Comments for the second workshop were due December 18, 2015.

The RETI 2.0 Plenary group met on December 18, 2015. This workshop initiated RETI 2.0 Plenary Group participation and communication and sought stakeholder feedback on the tasks, deliverables, and timelines for the Group. The RETI 2.0 Management Team presented a detailed work plan for the Plenary Group, focusing on the initial foundational work through March 2016. Staff discussed known milestones and data availability from other relevant proceedings. Staff sought stakeholder input on relevant questions to explore and available data, analyses, and expertise.

## **Agenda – Environmental and Land Use Technical Group**

On the morning of January 22, 2016, the ELUTG stakeholders and agency technical staff will continue to review available data and discuss approaches to data use in recent and ongoing renewable energy planning processes, including the DRECP, BLM Solar PEIS for the Western States, and other related environmental planning efforts.

A specific agenda will be posted prior to the workshop. Topics on the agenda will include, but not limited to:

- Available statewide and west-wide environmental data
- Approaches to using data
- Updates on public processes using the available environmental data

## **Agenda – Transmission Technical Input Group**

On the afternoon of January 22, 2016, staff of the Energy Commission, CPUC and California ISO will hold a workshop for the Transmission Technical Input Group (TTIG) to explore the available statewide transmission planning supporting renewable generation development, the status of regional planning activities across the west, and a number of active interregional transmission projects under development in the Western Interconnect. Stakeholders will be asked to identify additional informational opportunities and data sources to help ensure that the RETI 2.0 initiative has full access to the available transmission planning and capability information. The TTIG and stakeholders will review available transmission planning data and discuss potential additional sources of potential transmission input into the RETI 2.0 plenary session discussions.

A specific agenda will be posted prior to the workshop. Topics on the agenda will include, but not limited to:

- Transmission planning status and updates from California transmission planning entities
- Updates on interregional planning activities
- Updates from interregional transmission project developers
- Public comment

## **Public Comment**

**Oral comments:** The Energy Commission will accept oral comments during the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes and will become part of the public record for this stakeholder process.

**Written comments for either workshop should be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on February 5, 2016.** Please submit comments to the Energy Commission using the Energy Commission's e-commenting feature by going to the RETI 2.0 webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/> and click on the "Submit eComment" link. A full name, e-mail address, comment title, and either a comment or an attached document (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format) is mandatory. After a challenge-response test used by the system to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

Please note that written comments, attachments, and associated contact information included within the written comments and attachments (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record.

You are encouraged to use the electronic commenting system, described above, to submit comments. If you are unable to submit comments electronically, a paper copy of your comments may be sent to:

Dockets Unit  
California Energy Commission  
Docket No. 15-RETI-02  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Or e-mail them to: [DOCKET@energy.ca.gov](mailto:DOCKET@energy.ca.gov)

If you choose not to use the electronic filing system, please include the Docket Number 15-RETI-02 on any e-mailed or written comments. Written comments will also be accepted at the workshop. However, the agencies may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the workshop.

## **Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts**

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, by e-mail at [PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz by e-mail at [Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance of the meeting.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group portion of this meeting, please contact Scott Flint by e-mail at [Scott.Flint@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Flint@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 651-3774.

If you have questions on the subject matter of the Transmission Technical Input Group portion of this meeting, please contact Al Alvarado by e-mail at [Al.Alvarado@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Al.Alvarado@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4749.

The service list for the stakeholder process is handled electronically. Notices and documents for this proceeding are posted to the Energy Commission website. When new information is posted, an e-mail will be sent to those on the RETI e-mail list server. We encourage those who are interested in receiving these notices to sign up for the list server through the website at [www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/).

## Remote Attendance

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If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at (866) 229-3239.

## Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/>.

DATE: January 13, 2016

List Serve: RETI