



August 5, 2009

Dear California Energy Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the State Energy Program Guidelines.

I am submitting these comments on behalf of California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL). CIPL includes 500 religious congregations throughout California, committed to reducing greenhouse gases through energy reduction, energy efficiency and alternative energy strategies. Congregational facilities are among the most energy inefficient buildings in the United States, thus, energy retrofitting yields substantial greenhouse gas reductions and sets an example for congregants and communities. The houses of worship in our network, representing a wide range of religions and beliefs, are interested in installing energy retrofits within their facilities, including sanctuaries, schools and administrative buildings, especially after we help them conduct an institutional energy audit. However, many of our member congregations do not have the resources to do so.

For the Municipal and Commercial Building Targeted Measure Retrofit Program, CIPL would like to see guidelines that make funding available for energy retrofitting for congregations, especially in economically-disadvantaged areas (such as West Pasadena, and East and South Los Angeles), which are conducted by groups of workers who have gone through Green Jobs Training, some of whom may also be from economically vulnerable areas. This kind of project yields multiple benefits for houses of worship and their communities, as well as helps the State Energy Program meet its goals by accomplishing the following:

1. Energy/greenhouse gases reduction through a combination of measures as found on page 36, especially First and Second Tier, and page 30 of the Preliminary Guidelines.
2. Employment of skilled workers, especially for those who come from economically vulnerable areas.
3. Education - the energy retrofitting would set an example for the tens of thousands of congregants reached by our members.
4. Strengthening the economy of economically vulnerable areas through the creation of jobs and reduced energy costs.
5. Promotion of exciting energy programs that many organizations are undertaking, as well as the partnership opportunities between them and the CEC
6. Awareness of, and access to, technical and economic opportunities provided through SEP and other CEC funded programs.

We are very excited about the important benefits afforded by the ARRA stimulus funding, as distributed by the State Energy Program, given our organization's priorities of green jobs training, economic recovery and greenhouse gas reduction. It is our hope that non-profits working with the faith community will be able to participate in this funding.

Thank you,

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