BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Promote Policy and Program Coordination and Integration in Electric Utility Resource Planning.

R.04-04-003

COMMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION ON THE DRAFT DECISION OF ALJ MAILED ON JUNE 28, 2004

Anthony J. Ivancovich
Senior Regulatory Counsel
Stephen A. S. Morrison
Corporate Counsel
California Independent System Operator
151 Blue Ravine Road
Folsom, CA 95630
Telephone: 916-608-7135

Telephone: 916-608-7135 Facsimile: 916-608-7296

Counsel for the

California Independent System Operator

Dated: July 1, 2004

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I. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") Rules 77.2 and 77.3, and the Notice of Availability of ALJ Draft Decision Interim Order Regarding Electricity Reliability Issues, the California Independent System Operator Corporation ("CAISO") respectfully submits its comments on the Draft Decision of ALJ, titled Interim Order Regarding Electric Reliability ("Draft Decision"), which was mailed on June 28, 2004. The CAISO supports the Draft Decision and urges the CPUC to adopt the Draft Decision at its July 8, 2004 meeting, with the CAISO's proposed clarifications regarding cost recovery and market power. The Draft Decision establishes the proper direction and, as suggested by the CAISO, should include, an expedited process to determine implementation details. This expedited process should last approximately two weeks following issuance of a final CPUC order and would allow the CAISO, the utilities and the CPUC to work out the details associated with up front guidance that can be provided to address market power concerns and facilitate cost recovery and general compliance with the CPUC's order.

The CAISO submits that the Draft Decision constitutes a major step toward addressing certain scheduling and procurement practices that affect the efficient and the reliable operation of the electric transmission system in California. The CAISO commends the CPUC on its swift action to address acknowledged conditions that adversely impact the CAISO's ability to operate the transmission grid reliably.

The Draft Decision accurately recognizes that, in recent months, the CAISO has had to increasingly manage congestion and address location-specific operating requirements in real-time, rather than in the day-ahead time frame in certain parts of the transmission system. The CAISO concurs with the Draft Decision that transmission congestion arises in these areas, in part, due to the scheduling of resources that are not deliverable to load. These scheduling practices pose operational difficulties for the CAISO and raise concerns about reliability. Adoption of the recommendations in the Draft Decision will improve reliability by mitigating the excessive volume of real-time dispatch now experienced by the CAISO and allowing utilities to effectively serve their load.

The CAISO agrees with the characterization of the roles of the various parties as set forth in the Draft Decision. In particular, the CAISO agrees that it has the responsibility to ensure and maintain grid reliability on a day-to-day basis and that Load Serving Entities ("LSEs") have the responsibility to procure and schedule resources in a manner that enables the CAISO to reasonably carry out its responsibilities. The CAISO wholly endorses the Draft Decision's emphasis on the utilities' responsibility to effectively meet their customers' needs by taking into account of all CAISO-related commitment costs (*e.g.* congestion, re-dispatch, and must offer) in their procurement practices. The CAISO also agrees that the principles adopted in the Draft Decision should apply statewide to all jurisdictional entities. The CAISO recognizes that actions

taken by LSEs to comply with this decision may result in costs being incurred by LSEs that are different from those being incurred today. As stated in the Draft Decision, it is the expectation that, while procurement based on deliverability may add to the total costs incurred by LSEs, the significant reliability costs currently being incurred by the CAISO (and thus, the LSEs) will be reduced with effective LSE forward scheduling and dispatch. Accordingly, the CAISO commits to assist the CPUC as necessary in developing upfront standards and criteria that the LSEs can rely upon for purposes of subsuming purchases made pursuant to this order within the protection of AB 57.

The CAISO also is committed to providing the information and data necessary to permit the CPUC to monitor effectively the utilities' compliance with any final CPUC order. Further, the CAISO will work within the confines of its Tariff to provide useful information and guidance to facilitate compliance with any CPUC order.

Finally, the CAISO believes that any final CPUC order should provide further clarification and guidance regarding cost recovery and market power issues. First, the CAISO believes that the utilities should be permitted to recover all of their prudently incurred reliability costs through their FERC Reliability Services Tariffs and/or applicable CPUC cost recovery mechanisms, including AB 57. Second, the CPUC should set some guidelines for determining the prudence of expenditures associated with supporting reliable grid operations in the face of potential market power.

For the reasons set forth below, the CAISO urges the CPUC to adopt the proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Draft Decision with the CAISO's clarifications regarding cost recovery and market power.

II. THE CPUC SHOULD ADOPT THE DRAFT DECISION SUBJECT TO THE CAISO'S CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING COST RECOVERY AND MARKET POWER

A. The Practices Addressed By The Draft Decision Affect Reliability

The Draft Decision appropriately recognizes the CAISO's concerns regarding reliability noting that:

[S]cheduling of resources that are not deliverable to load ... [poses] operational difficulties for the CAISO and concerns about reliability, particularly for summer months when the system is stressed.¹

The scheduling of resources without regard to deliverability and the CAISO's location-specific operating requirements directly impacts the CAISO's ability to operate the grid reliably. In that regard, such practices require the CAISO to re-dispatch large volumes of energy in real time to account for forward schedules that are undeliverable or fail to satisfy other operating requirements. The excessive daily volume of real-time redispatch complicates the CAISO's efforts to maintain system reliability. Reducing that burden and its attendant complications will enable the CAISO to operate the grid more reliably, thereby benefiting all users of the transmission system.

The Draft Decision also appropriately recognizes that the summer months are a particularly stressed time for the transmission system in California. The CAISO is, therefore, especially appreciative of the speed with which the CPUC has acted to address reliability concerns and its continued attention to this ongoing issue. This will enhance the CAISO's ability

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Draft Decision at.3

to operate the grid reliably during this summer when conditions are expected to be very challenging, as well as during the following months, and until resource adequacy provisions and the CAISO's market redesign ensure that adequate locational capacity is made available to the CAISO.

B. The Clarification Of Roles Regarding Reliability

The CAISO agrees with the Draft Decision's conclusion that:

The CAISO has the authority, experience, knowledge, tools, process and ability to fulfill its responsibility to assure reliable grid operations. Procurement, however, is not part of CAISO's core functions.²

Stated differently, the CAISO has the responsibility to ensure and maintain reliable grid operations, and LSEs have the responsibility to procure sufficient and appropriate resources to make that reasonably possible.³ The CAISO's procurement authority should be a "backstop" reliability tool" only.

The CAISO appreciates the Draft Decision's understanding of the role of the CAISO because it serves to illuminate the role of LSEs as the entities primarily responsible for procurement and scheduling. The Draft Decision also appropriately recognizes that, in making procurement and scheduling decisions, LSE's must take into account the capabilities, and limitations, of the transmission system. In that regard, "the CAISO's ability to operate the transmission system in a reliable fashion is contingent on the utilities fulfilling their responsibility to have sufficient resources to serve load (not just systemwide but also locally) and to schedule resources in a manner reasonably consistent with reliable grid operations."⁴ The Draft Decision fairly allocates the responsibility for reliability between the CAISO and the

Ibid at 8.

Ibid at 7.

Ibid.

utilities. The CAISO endorses the implications that this has for LSEs, *i.e.*, to take into account of all cost-related factors – including CAISO-related forward commitment costs – in their procurement and scheduling decisions. Procurement at minimum cost should not be deemed to exclude reliability-related costs.

Further, the Draft Decision states "we rely on the CAISO to take all reasonable steps to enable market participants to increase reliability by scheduling and procuring resources in a manner that minimizes CAISO operational problems while letting CAISO fulfill its fundamental mission of ensuring reliable grid operation." The approach adopted in the Draft Decision will serve to improve system reliability *and* efficiency to the benefit of all grid users. The CAISO fully commits to working collaboratively with the utilities and the CPUC to facilitate compliance with the Draft Decision.

Finally, the Draft Decision states it is a "utility responsibility to procure all the resources necessary to meet its load, not only service area wide but also locally" [R04-04-003 pg2].

Additionally, the Draft Decision makes it clear that the LSEs are responsible for procuring resources that are deliverable to their load. The CAISO strongly supports these conclusions.

C. The Role Of RMR Contracts And Bilateral Contracts

The CPUC has been clear elsewhere regarding its desire to minimize the use of and reliance upon RMR contracts.⁵ The CAISO agrees that RMR contracts should be a "backstop" measure in the long-term reliability equation. It should be noted that RMR contracts play a significant role by providing a mechanism to limit the potential market power of resources within transmission constrained areas of the grid. However, the CAISO has long taken the position that it is not the supplier of last resort. Rather, it is the responsibility of all LSEs to procure sufficient

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⁵ CPUC D.04-10-050

resources to serve their load. Therefore, the CAISO believes it will be able to phase-out the quantity of RMR contracts it enters into. That position notwithstanding, the CAISO still requires recourse to RMR contracts at this time. In any event, RMR contracts do not address or resolve the problems being addressed in the Draft Decision. *See* CAISO's Reply Comments On Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Regarding Reliability Issues, at 5-6, June 21, 2004. Not only would greater reliance on RMR be shortsighted, as the Draft Decision recognizes, it is too blunt an instrument to deal with the particular reliability concerns presented by the excessive and repetitive use of infeasible schedules. In that regard, the CAISO may only dispatch Energy under the RMR contract to maintain "local" reliability and manage intra-Zonal congestion (and only when market bids cannot be used in merit order to meet local reliability needs or manage intra-zonal congestion). Further, the CAISO is prohibited from dispatching energy under the RMR contract to manage inter-zonal congestion or to meet general imbalance energy requirements. Moreover, the CAISO does not have authority to reduce or limit a unit's output under the RMR contract – a key functionality when managing congestion.

For similar reasons, bilateral contracts may only provide perceived relief to the CAISO's reliability concerns if they do not result in feasible schedules or fully satisfy applicable locational requirements.

D. Statewide Applicability Of The Principles Adopted In The Draft Decision

The CAISO endorses the Draft Decision's conclusion that any order must have statewide application to all jurisdictional entities. In that regard, congestion concerns are not limited to the SCE service area. Further, it is reasonable that all utilities be required to schedule resources so as to not increase known or reasonably anticipated congestion and to schedule resources consistent with established reliability requirements. Further, all LSEs should be procuring

resources that are deliverable to their respective load, therefore this obligation is not unique to SCE. The CAISO is heartened by the Draft Decision's conclusion that the principles adopted in the order should apply to "other areas with the same facts causing the same problems". The CAISO urges the CPUC to adopt the approach in the Draft Decision which addresses both known and anticipated issues of system reliability.

E. The CAISO's Position On Providing Data

The Draft Decision anticipates the establishment of a program to monitor the implementation of the order in the Draft Decision. The CAISO agrees with the Commission that there is a need for such monitoring, and the CAISO commits to cooperating with the CPUC to effectively implement such monitoring. The CAISO believes that any criteria the CAISO will apply in its monitoring role must be clearly spelled out and communicated to the LSEs and the CAISO in advance, , and that monitoring should be based on key indicators of procurement and scheduling practices of each LSE that would be reflective of the impacts that each LSE practices may have on reliability. The CAISO also notes that in many, if not most cases, the CPUC will need to combine data from the CAISO with data from the LSE's to accurately monitor the impacts of the order in the Draft Decision.

The CAISO notes that in its Amendment No. 60 Tariff Filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the CAISO stated that it "...

has agreed to publish on OASIS, for each hour, the total number of units, total MW of minimum load, total MW capacity, and total minimum load cost for units whose waivers were revoked or denied, categorized by Zone and the reason the unit's waiver was revoked or denied. The CAISO will also publish total monthly start-up costs categorized by Zone and the reason the units' waiver was revoked or denied. This information will be published for an entire month 30 days after the end of the proceeding month.

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⁶ Draft Decision at 19

The CAISO anticipates that it would utilize a similar approach for re-dispatch costs, either by Zone or by location (*e.g.*, Miguel).

The CAISO also stands ready and willing to work collaboratively with the CPUC and affected market participants to provide useful and relevant information and guidance in order to facilitate compliance with the Draft Decision and minimize the incurrence of real-time redispatch costs, subject to the constraints in the CAISO Tariff that apply to the disclosure of information. Under CAISO Tariff Section 20.3, the CAISO is not authorized to disclose to any third party confidential or commercially-sensitive information unless there is a legal requirement to do so and adequate protection is in place to maintain the confidentiality of that information. Further, under CAISO Tariff Section 2.1.1, the CAISO must provide open and non-discriminatory access to the grid and cannot accord any Market Participant preferential treatment by providing it information or access to information that is not equally available to other Market Participants. Within these constraints, the CAISO commits to provide the CPUC and affected Market Participants information containing the maximum specificity the Tariff allows.

As a final matter, the CAISO also recognizes that further discussions may be needed between the CAISO, the CPUC and the utilities to work out implementation details of any final CPUC order. The CAISO is fully committed to working collaboratively with the parties to resolve any such outstanding issues and providing the maximum amount of guidance consistent with the provisions of the CAISO Tariff. This should take place on an expedited timeframe –the two week time period identified above -- to ensure that the benefits of this order are achieved for this summer.

F. Market Power

The CAISO agrees with comments made by others that there is a risk that forward procurement actions taken by LSEs to ensure deliverability to load can result in some market participants having market power. To this end, the CAISO recommends that the CPUC modify the decision to provide for a mechanism that limits the ability of market participants to exercise market power. The Order should encourage procurement of such resources by LSEs by providing for cost recovery of prudently incurred expenses, along with clear up front guidelines or criteria for determining the prudence of such expenditures. For example, these guidelines should include specific formulas or other similarly specific standards that may be used by LSEs for the minimum and maximum prices that may be offered by LSE's for incremental capacity and energy necessary to meet locational reliability requirements identified by the CAISO. Any such guidelines for minimum prices that may be offered must reflect the fact that in many cases the operating costs of some capacity (and energy) needed to meet local reliability requirements exceeds market prices, and is therefore not in operation unless the price offered for such capacity and energy is in excess of market prices. At the same time, for most of the major locational constraints within the CAISO system, there are typically only one or two suppliers with noncommitted capacity that may be procured to meet locations requirements, so that upper purchase price limits are necessary to prevent suppliers with locational market power from demanding unreasonably high prices. Since all local market power mitigation mechanisms administered by the CAISO's require approval by FERC, the locational market power of suppliers in forward spot markets can only be addressed purchase price limits established for LSE procurement by the CPUC. Market power mitigation administered by the CAISO serves as a "backstop" in the event that sellers demand a price higher than any such purchase price limits, and the power must ultimately be purchased in the CAISO market.

In developing such criteria, the CPUC needs to balance the fact that any local capacity and energy requirements not met by LSE purchases will result in the CAISO incurring both the costs and grid management problems associated with real time mitigation efforts.

G. Cost Recovery Issues

The utilities likely will have concerns about the recovery of any reliability-related cost that are incurred in complying with the Draft Decision. The CAISO acknowledges that these cost recovery concerns are valid. Although the utilities should not be given a "blank check," they should be permitted to recover all prudently incurred reliability-related costs through their FERC Reliability Services Tariff and/or any applicable CPUC cost recovery mechanism, including AB 57.

III. CONCLUSION

The CAISO respectfully urges the CPUC to adopt the Draft Decision with the CAISO's proposed clarifications regarding market power and cost recovery. The approach adopted in the Draft Decision clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the entities whose scheduling and procurement practices have a significant impact on system reliability in California and will promote the maintenance of a more efficient and reliable transmission system.

Respectfully submitted

By:

Anthony J. Ivaneovich Senior Regulatory Counsel Stephen A.S. Morrison Corporate Counsel

Counsel for the California Independent System Operator Corporation 151 Blue Ravine Road Folsom, California 95630

Phone: (916) 608-7135 Fax: (916) 608-7296

Date: July 1, 2004

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 1, 2004 I served, by electronic mail, the Comments of the California Independent System Operator Corporation on the Draft Decision of ALJ Mailed on June 28, 2004 in Docket # R.04-04-003.

DATED at Folsom, California on July 1, 2004.

Charity N. Wilson

An Employee of the California Independent System Operator

KEITH MCCREA SUTHERLAND, ASBILL & BRENNAN 1275 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2415 ROGER A. BERLINER MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP 1501 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1702 JAMES ROSS RCS CONSULTING, INC. 500 CHESTERFIELD CENTER, SUITE 320 CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017

LISA URICK SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY 555 W. FIFTH STREET, SUITE 1400 LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1011 ROSS A. MILLER CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET MS 20 SACRAMENTO, CA 96814-5512 JAMES OZENNE SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY 555 W. FIFTH ST., STE. 1400 LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1034

HOWARD CHOY COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1100 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT LOS ANGELES, CA 90063

DAVID L. HUARD MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP 11355 WEST OLYMPIC BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90064 RANDALL W. KEEN MANATT PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP 11355 WEST OLYMPIC BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90064

GREGORY S.G. KLATT LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL W. DOUGLASS 411 E. HUNTINGTON DRIVE, SUITE 107-356 ARCADIA, CA 91006 KEVIN DUGGAN CAPSTONE TURBINE CORPORATION 21211 NORDHOFF STREET CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 DANIEL W. DOUGLASS LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL W. DOUGLASS 6303 OWENSMOUTH AVE., TENTH FLOOR WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367-2262

BETH A. FOX SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE ROSEMEAD, CA 91770 ELIZABETH HULL CITY OF CHULA VISTA 276 FOURTH AVENUE CHULA VISTA, CA 91910 FREDERICK M. ORTLIEB CITY OF SAN DIEGO - OFFICE OF CITY ATTOR 1200 THIRD AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

ALVIN S. PAK SEMPRA ENERGY GLOBAL ENTERPRISES 101 ASH STREET, HQ15 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-3017 JOSEPH R. KLOBERDANZ SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC 8330 CENTURY PARK COURT SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1530 JOHN W. LESLIE LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON & SCRIPPS, LLP 11988 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 SAN DIEGO, CA 92130

KEITH E. FULLER ITRON, INC. 11236 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DEIGO, CA 92130-2650

DAVID OLSEN 3804 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY VENTURA, CA 93001 CHRIS KING
CALIF. CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT
ALLIANCE
ONE TWIN DOLPHIN DRIVE
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94065

MARC D. JOSEPH ADAMS BROADWELL JOSEPH & CARDOZO 651 GATEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 900 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 JOSEPH P. COMO CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, RM. 234 CITY HALL, ROOM 234 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MICHEL PETER FLORIO THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK (TURN) 711 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 350 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

OSA ARMI SHUTE MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP 396 HAYES STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 DIAN M. GRUENEICH GRUENEICH RESOURCE ADVOCATES 582 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1020 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 JACK MC GOWAN GRUENEICH RESOURCE ADVOCATES 582 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1020 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

JODY S. LONDON GRUENEICH RESOURCE ADVOCATES 582 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1020 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 KAREN TERRANOVA ALCANTAR & KAHL, LLP 120 MONTGOMERY STREET, STE 2200 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 NORA SHERIFF ALCANTAR & KAHL LLP 120 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 2200 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 ROD AOKI ALCANTAR & KAHL, LLP 120 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 2200 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 SHERYL CARTER
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
111 SUTTER STREET, 20/F
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

EDWARD V. KURZ PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

JENNIFER K. POST PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, ROOM 2496 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 CHRISTOPHER HILEN DAVIS, WRIGHT TERMAINE, LLP ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, 6TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111 JOSEPH M. KARP WHITE & CASE LLP 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER, STE 2100 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

STEVEN F. GREENWALD DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE, LLP ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, 6TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111 EDWARD W. O'NEILL DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 600 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834 JEFFREY GRAY DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, 6TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

LISA A. COTTLE WHITE & CASE LLP 3 EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 2210 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4050 JOHN W. BOGY PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC PO BOX 7442 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94120

SARA STECK MYERS 122 - 28TH AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121

AVIS CLARK CALPINE CORPORATION 4160 DUBLIN BLVD. DUBLIN, CA 94568 LINDA Y. SHERIF CALPINE CORP. 4160 DUBLIN BOULEVARD DUBLIN, CA 94568 MARJORIE OXSEN CALPINE CORPORATION 4160 DUBLIN BOULEVARD DUBLIN, CA 94568

STEVEN S. SCHLEIMER CALPINE CORPORATION 4160 DUBLIN BLVD. DUBLIN, CA 94568-6600 JOE DESMOND INFOTILITY, INC. 4847 HOPYARD RD. STE. 4311 PLEASANTON, CA 94588 WILLIAM H. BOOTH LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM H. BOOTH 1500 NEWELL AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596

RAMONA GONZALEZ EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 375 ELEVENTH STREET, M/S NO. 205 OAKLAND, CA 94607 REED V. SCHMIDT BARTLE WELLS ASSOCIATES 1889 ALCATRAZ AVENUE BERKELEY, CA 94703-2714 R. THOMAS BEACH CROSSBORDER ENERGY 2560 NINTH STREET, SUITE 316 BERKELEY, CA 94710

BARBARA R. BARKOVICH BARKOVICH AND YAP, INC. 31 EUCALYPTUS LANE SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

JOHN R. REDDING 31 EUCALYPTUS LANE SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901 JOHN REDDING SILICON VALLEY MANUFACTURING GROUP 31 EUCALYPTUS LANE SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

JENNIFER HOLMES ITRON INC. 153 WOODCREST PLACE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95065 JUSTIN D. BRADLEY SILICON VALLEY MANUFACTURING GROUP 224 AIRPORT PARKWAY, SUITE 620 SAN JOSE, CA 95110 BARRY F. MCCARTHY MCCARTHY & BERLIN, LLP 2005 HAMILTON AVENUE, SUITE 140 SAN JOSE, CA 95125

C. SUSIE BERLIN MC CARTHY & BERLIN, LLP 2005 HAMILTON AVENUE, SUITE 140 SAN JOSE, CA 95125 CHRISTOPHER J. MAYER MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT 1231 ELEVENTH STREET MODESTO, CA 95354 SCOTT T. STEFFEN MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT 1231 ELEVENTH STREET MODESTO, CA 95354 DAVID KATES DAVID MARK AND COMPANY 3510 UNOCAL PLACE, SUITE 200 SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-5571 GRANT A. ROSENBLUM CALIFORNIA ISO 151 BLUE RAVINE RD. FOLSOM, CA 95630 MATTHEW V. BRADY MATTHEW V. BRADY & ASSOCIATES 2339 GOLD MEADOW WAY GOLD RIVER, CA 95670

ANDREW B. BROWN ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS, LLP 2015 H STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 DOUGLAS K. KERNER ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS LLP 2015 H STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 LYNN M. HAUG ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS, LLP 2015 H STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-3109

RONALD LIEBERT CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE SACRAMENTO, CA 95833 MICHAEL ALCANTAR ALCANTAR & KAHL LLP 1300 SW FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 1750 PORTLAND, OR 97201 DONALD W. SCHOENBECK RCS, INC. 900 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 780 VANCOUVER, WA 98660

CARLO ZORZOLI ENEL NORTH AMERICA, INC. 1 TECH DRIVE, SUITE 220 ANDOVER, MA 1810 GARY HINNERS RELIANT ENERGY, INC. PO BOX 148 HOUSTON, TX 77001-0148 JOHN HILKE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION 125 SOUTH STATE STREET ROMM 2105 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138

DAVID SAUL SOLEL, INC. 439 PELICAN BAY COURT HENDERSON, NV 89012 CYNTHIA K. MITCHELL ECONOMIC CONSULTING INC. 530 COLGATE COURT RENO, NV 89503 KEVIN R. MCSPADDEN MILBANK,TWEED,HADLEY&MCCLOY LLP 601 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, 30TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

CURTIS KEBLER GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO. 2121 AVENUE OF THE STARS LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 NORMAN A. PEDERSEN HANNA AND MORTON LLP 444 SOUTH FLOWER STREET, SUITE 1500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90071 COLIN M. LONG
PACIFIC ECONOMICS GROUP
201 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 400
PASADENA, CA 91101

ROGER PELOTE THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC. 12736 CALIFA STREET VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91607 CASE ADMINISTRATION SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE, ROOM 370 ROSEMEAD, CA 91770 BERJ K. PARSEGHIAN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE ROSEMEAD, CA 91770

FRANK J. COOLEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE RM 345 ROSEMEAD, CA 91770 LAURA GENAO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE ROSEMEAD, CA 91770 DOUGLAS MITCHELL SEMPRA ENERGY GLOBAL ENTERPRISES 101 ASH STREET, HQ-15G SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

IRENE M. STILLINGS SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ENERGY OFFICE 8520 TECH WAY, SUITE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92123 SCOTT J. ANDERS SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ENERGY OFFICE 8520 TECH WAY - SUITE 110 SAN DIEGO, CA 92123 JOSE C. CERVANTES CITY OF SAN DIEGO 9601 RIDGEHAVEN CT., SUITE 120 SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1636

MARK SHIRILAU ALOHA SYSTEMS, INC. 14801 COMET STREET IRVINE, CA 92604-2464 CHARLES R. TOCA UTILITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUP 1100 QUAIL, SUITE 217 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 MARK J. SKOWRONSKI SOLARGENIX AT INLAND ENERGY GROUP 3501 JAMBOREE ROAD, SUITE 606 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 DIANE I. FELLMAN LAW OFFICES OF DIANE I. FELLMAN 234 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 MATTHEW FREEDMAN THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK 711 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 350 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 Regina DeAngelis CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE LEGAL DIVISION ROOM 4107 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

SEAN CASEY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIO 1155 MARKET STREET, 4TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 SEAN CASEY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIO 1155 MARKET STREET, 4TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

DEVRA BACHRACH NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL 111 SUTTER STREET, 20TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

VALERIE J. WINN PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, B9A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 PETER BRAY PETER BRAY AND ASSOCIATES 3566 17TH STREET, SUITE 2 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110-1093

CALIFORNIA ENERGY MARKETS 517-B POTRERO AVE. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110-1431

BRIAN CRAGG GOODIN, MAC BRIDE, SQUERI, RITCHIE & DAY 505 SANSOME STREET, SUITE 900 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

JAMES A. BOOTHE HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 50 CALIFORNIA STREET, 28TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111 LINDSEY HOW-DOWNING DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 600 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

DANIEL W. FESSLER HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 50 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 2800 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4726 LISA WEINZIMER CALIFORNIA ENERGY CIRCUIT 695 NINTH AVENUE, NO. 2 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94118 ED LUCHA
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
PO BOX 770000
MAIL CODE: B9A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94177

SEBASTIEN CSAPO PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PO BOX 770000 MAIL CODE B9A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94177 MICHAEL ROCHMAN SCHOOL PROJECT UTILITY RATE REDUCTION 1430 WILLOW PASS ROAD, SUITE 240 CONCORD, CA 94520

KEITH WHITE 931 CONTRA COSTA DRIVE EL CERRITO, CA 94530

JAY BHALLA INTERGY CORPORATION 4713 FIRST STREET, SUITE 235 PLEASANTON, CA 94566 WILLIAM H. CHEN CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY, INC. 2175 N. CALIFORNIA BLVD., SUITE 300 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596 PHILIPPE AUCLAIR MIRANT CORPORATION 1350 TREAT BLVD., SUITE 500 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

STANLEY I. ANDERSON POWER VALUE INCORPORATED 964 MOJAVE CT WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598 TED POPE COHEN VENTURES, INC./ENERGY SOLUTIONS 1738 EXCELSIOR AVENUE OAKLAND, CA 94602

CATHERINE E. YAP BARKOVICH & YAP, INC. PO BOX 11031 OAKLAND, CA 94611

MRW & ASSOCIATES, INC. 1999 HARRISON STREET, SUITE 1440 OAKLAND, CA 94612 DAVID MARCUS PO BOX 1287 BERKELEY, CA 94701 GREGG MORRIS GREEN POWER INSTITUTE 2039 SHATTUCK AVE., SUITE 402 BERKELEY, CA 94704

JOHN GALLOWAY UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS 2397 SHATTUCK AVENUE, SUITE 203 BERKELEY, CA 94704 CRAIG TYLER TYLER & ASSOCIATES 2760 SHASTA ROAD BERKELEY, CA 94708 EDWARD VINE LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIIONAL LAB BUILDING 90-4000 BERKELEY, CA 94720 RYAN WISER BERKELEY LAB ONE CYCLOTRON ROAD MS-90-4000 BERKELEY, CA 94720

KAREN NOTSUND UC ENERGY INSTITUTE 2547 CHANNING WAY BERKELEY, CA 94720-5180 PHILLIP J. MULLER SCD ENERGY SOLUTIONS 436 NOVA ALBION WAY SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

WILLIAM B. MARCUS JBS ENERGY, INC. 311 D STREET, SUITE A WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95605 STEVEN KELLY INDEPENDENT ENERGY PRODUCERS ASSN 1215 K STREET, SUITE 900 SACRAMENTO, CA 95616 CAROLYN M. KEHREIN ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES 1505 DUNLAP COURT DIXON, CA 95620-4208

LEGAL & REGULATORY DEPARTMENT CALIFORNIA ISO 151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD FOLSOM, CA 95630 GARY DESHAZO CALIFORNIA ISO 151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD FOLSOM, CA 95630 PHILIP D. PETTINGILL CAISO 151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD FOLSOM, CA 95630

ROBERT SPARKS CALIFORNIA INDEPENDANT SYSTEM OPERATOR 151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD FOLSOM, CA 95630

JAMES WEIL AGLET CONSUMER ALLIANCE PO BOX 1599 FORESTHILL, CA 95631 VICTORIA P. FLEMING NAVIGANT CONSULTING, INC. 3100 ZINFANDEL DRIVE, SUITE 600 RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670-6026

ED CHANG FLYNN RESOURCE CONSULTANTS, INC. 2165 MOONSTONE CIRCLE EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762 BRUCE MCLAUGHLIN BRAUN & BLAISING P.C. 915 L STREET, SUITE 1460 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 KEVIN WOODRUFF WOODRUFF EXPERT SERVICES 1100 K STREET, SUITE 204 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

LOREN KAYE
POLIS GROUP
1115 11TH STREET, SUITE 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

MELANIE GILLETTE DUKE ENERGY NORTH AMERICA 980 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1420 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 TERRY A. GERMAN LIVINGSTON & MATTESICH LAW CORPORATION 1201 K STREET, SUITE 1100 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-3938

GREG BROWNELL SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 6201 S STREET, M.S. B306 SACRAMENTO, CA 95817-1899

CAROLYN A. BAKER 7456 DELTAWIND DRIVE SACRAMENTO, CA 95831 KAREN NORENE MILLS CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

KAREN LINDH LINDH & ASSOCIATES 7909 WALERGA ROAD, NO. 112, PMB 119 ANTELOPE, CA 95843 NATHAN TOYAMA SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 6201 S STREET RATES DEPARTMENT, MS 44 SACRAMENTO, CA 95852-1830

GAIL HAMMER GAS TRANSMISSION NORTHWEST 1400 SW 5TH AVE., SUITE 900 PORTLAND, OR 97201

KEVIN CHRISTIE GAS TRANSMISSION NORTHWEST CORPORATION 1400 SW 5TH AVENUE, STE. 900 PORTLAND, OR 97201

LESLIE FERRON-JONES GAS TRANSMISSION NORTHWEST 1400 SW 5TH AVE., SUITE 900 PORTLAND, OR 97201 G. ALAN COMNES DYNEGY POWER CORP. 3934 SE ASH STREET PORTLAND, OR 97214

LAURA J. SCOTT LANDS ENERGY CONSULTING INC. 2366 EASTLAKE AVENUE EAST SUITE 311 SEATTLE, WA 98102-3399 Maria E. Stevens CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 320 WEST 4TH STREET SUITE 500 EXECUTIVE DIVISION LOS ANGELES. CA 90013 Amy Chan CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214 Bradford Wetstone
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Burton Mattson
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES
ROOM 5104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Donna J Hines
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
ELECTRICITY RESOURCES AND PRICING
BRANCH ROOM 4102
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Jan Reid CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRICITY RESOURCES AND PRICING BRANCH ROOM 4209 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Julie A Fitch
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
EXECUTIVE DIVISION ROOM 5203
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Louis M Irwin
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
ELECTRICITY RESOURCES AND PRICING
BRANCH ROOM 4209
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Maryam Ebke
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
DIVISION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING ROOM
5119
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Nilgun Atamturk
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Scott Logan CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRICITY RESOURCES AND PRICING BRANCH ROOM 4209 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Trina Horner CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE EXECUTIVE DIVISION ROOM 5217 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214 Brian D. Schumacher CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CUSTOMER SERVICE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Clayton K. Tang CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Eli W Kollman CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Jay Luboff
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Karen M Shea CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Mark S. Wetzell
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES
ROOM 5009
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Meg Gottstein
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES
ROOM 5044
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Noel Obiora CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE LEGAL DIVISION ROOM 4107 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Shannon Eddy
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
EXECUTIVE DIVISION ROOM 4102
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Valerie Beck
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Bruce Kaneshiro
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Donald R Smith
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
ELECTRICITY RESOURCES AND PRICING
BRANCH ROOM 4209
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Jack Fulcher CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Jeanette Lo
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY ROOM 4006
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Kenneth Lewis
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,
CUSTOMER SERVICE ROOM 4002
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Marshal B. Enderby CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ENERGY COST OF SERVICE BRANCH ROOM 4205 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Moises Chavez
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Paul Douglas CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Stephen St. Marie CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY & FINANCE AREA SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214

Zenaida G. Tapawan-Conway CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCE ADVISORY AREA 4-A SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3214 ANDREW ULMER SIMPSON PARTNERS LLP 900 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111 CALIFORNIA POWER AUTHORITY 901 P STREET, SUITE 142A CAP COUNSEL OFFICE SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 CLARE LAUFENBERG CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH ST., MS 46 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

CONNIE LENI CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 EMILIO E. VARANINI, III CALIFORNIA POWER AUTHORITY 901 P STREET, SUITE 142A SARCARMENTO, CA 95814 JENNIFER TACHERA CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 - 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

KAREN GRIFFIN CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET, MS 39 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 MICHAEL JASKE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET, MS-500 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 MICHAEL MESSENGER CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Wade McCartney
CALIF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
770 L STREET, SUITE 1050
NATURAL GAS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
RESOURCE ADVISORY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

HELEN SABET CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512 ARLEN ORCHARD SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 6201 S STREET, M.S. B406 SACRAMENTO, CA 95817-1899

RON WETHERALL CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET MS 20 SACRAMENTO, CA 96814-5512