## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Implement Senate Bill No. 1488 (2004 Cal. Stats., Ch. 690 (Sept. 22, 2004)) Relating to Confidentiality of Information Rulemaking 05-06-040 (Filed June 30, 2005)

# COMMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED DECISION DEFINING "MARKET PARTICIPANT" AND "NON-MARKET PARTICIPANT" FOR THE PURPOSES OF ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Dated: November 7, 2006

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Pursuant to the Proposed Decision issued by Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Sarah R. Thomas on September 21, 2006 ("Proposed Decision"), the California Independent System Operator Corporation ("CAISO") respectfully submits comments addressing the definitions of "market participant" and "non-market participant" for purposes of determining access to confidential electric procurement, resource adequacy and renewals portfolio standard (RPS) data under Public Utilities Code §454.5(g).

#### I. Introduction

On June 29, 2006, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 06-06-066, in which it left open for consideration which individuals and entities are "market participants" and which are "non-market participants" for purposes of receiving access to confidential electric procurement, resource adequacy and renewables portfolio standard (RPS) data under § 454(g).

On October 18, 2006, the ALJ issued a Proposed Decision addressing this issue and adopted the following definition of "market participant" and "non-market

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All section references are to the Public Utilities Code.

participant" for purposes of access to "market sensitive" procurement data covered by § 454.5(g) and/or D.06-06-066:

## A "market participant" is

- 1) A person or entity, or an employee of an entity, that engages in the wholesale purchase, sale or marketing of energy or capacity, or the bidding on or purchasing of power plants, or bidding on utility procurement solicitations, or consulting on such matters, subject to the limitations in 3) below.
- 2) A trade association or similar organization, or an employee of such organization,
  - a) whose primary focus in proceedings at the Commission is to advocate for persons/entities that purchase, sell or market energy or capacity at wholesale; bid on, own, or purchase power plants; or bid on utility procurement solicitations, and/or
  - b) a majority of whose members purchase, sell or market energy or capacity at wholesale; bid on, own, or purchase power plants; or bid on utility procurement solicitations, and/or
  - c) formed for the purpose of obtaining market sensitive information; and/or
  - d) controlled or primarily funded by a person or entity whose primary purpose is to purchase, sell or market energy or capacity at wholesale; bid on, own, or purchase power plants; or bid on utility procurement solicitations.
- 3) A person or entity that meets the criteria of 1) above is nonetheless not a market participant for purpose of access to market sensitive data unless the person/entity seeking access to market sensitive information has the potential to materially affect the price paid or received for electricity if in possession of such information. An entity will be considered not to have such potential if:
  - a) the person or entity's participation in the California electricity market is *de minimis* in nature. In the resource adequacy proceeding (R.05-12-013) it was determined in D.06-06-064 § 3.3.2 that the resource adequacy requirement should be rounded to the nearest megawatt (MW), and load serving entities (LSEs) with local resource adequacy requirements less than 1 MW are not required to make a showing. Therefore, a *de minimis* amount of

energy would be less than 1 MW of capacity per year, and/or an equivalent of energy, and/or

- b) the person or entity has no ability to dictate the price of electricity it purchases or sells because such price is set by a process over which the person or entity has no control, and/or
- c) person or entity is a cogenerator that consumes all the power it generates in its own industrial and commercial processes.

The Commission adopted the following definition of "non-market participant":

Persons or entities that do not meet the definition of market participant are non-market participants, and may have access to market sensitive information. It is proper to require such non-market participants to sign a nondisclosure agreement or to be bound by a protective order prohibiting the disclosure of information to market participants.

## II. The Proposed Decision Correctly Finds That The CAISO Is Not a Market Participant

The Proposed Decision has properly characterized CAISO, a not-for-profit public benefit corporation, as a neutral arbiter, and not as a market participant. The CAISO appreciates the recognition that the activities of the CAISO are a result of ensuring system reliability, and that CAISO does not have incentives to act for its own economic gain. The CAISO agrees with the Proposed Decision that its role in operating the CAISO Control Grid and associated Energy and Ancillary Services markets should not render the CAISO a Market Participant.

# III. Requiring the CAISO to Sign Nondisclosure Agreements or Submit to Protective Orders is not Appropriate in all Circumstances

The Proposed Decision remarks that the CAISO did not weigh in on the appropriateness of having its staff sign nondisclosure agreements or submit to

protective orders. Moreover, the Proposed Decision correctly assumes that CAISO would agree not to disclose market sensitive information to market participants and states that the CAISO has had its staff sign nondisclosure agreements and/or submit to protective orders in the past.

The CAISO acknowledges that it has had its staff sign nondisclosure agreements and/or submit to protective orders in the past, and when appropriate, would require the same in future proceedings. The CAISO, however, does not believe that all matters in which it is involved with at the Commission warrant such measures. In fact, the CAISO believes that in certain circumstances it is not practical or necessary for its staff to sign nondisclosure agreements or submit to protective orders, such as matters or proceedings in which the CAISO and the Commission have an ongoing relationship. For example, matters related to Resource Adequacy should not impose a requirement on the CAISO to have its staff sign nondisclosure agreements. The CAISO intends to address this issue further as part of its comments on the proposed model protective order.<sup>2</sup>

Notwithstanding the CAISO's opposition to a blanket requirement that CAISO must have its staff sign nondisclosure agreements, the CAISO would not disclose confidential or market sensitive information to market participants, as doing so could be a violation of its Tariff.

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Alternatively, the CAISO may by motion under Rule 11.1 seek modification of the September 15, 2006 Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Regarding Interim Procedures for Claiming Confidential Treatment of Data Submitted by Load-Serving Entities with Resource Adequacy Compliance Filings, which continued, until superseded by the proposed model protective order, the effectiveness of Revised Protective Order adopted in R.05-12-013. The purpose of this motion would be to specifically address in the interim period the requirement that CAISO staff execute nondisclosure certificates as part of the CAISO's role in implementing the Commission's resource adequacy program.

### IV. Conclusion

The CAISO agrees with the Commission that it is not a market participant for purposes of access to "market sensitive" procurement data covered by § 454.5(g) and/or D.06-06-066. Moreover, the CAISO does not believe having its staff sign nondisclosure agreements is appropriate in all circumstances.

November 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By: Stair t. Ford Stacie L. Ford

Attorney for the California Independent System

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have served, by electronic and United States mail, Comments of The California Independent System Operator Corporation on The Commission's Proposed Decision Defining "Market Participant" and "Non-Market Participant" for the Purposes of Access to Confidential Documents in Docket No. R.05-06-040.

Executed on November 7, 2006, at Folsom, California.

Charity N. Wilson

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