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Media Hotline

What They're Saying

FOLSOM, Calif. – Here's what industry stakeholders are saying about a newly released study showing substantial cost savings and environmental benefits from a western regional power grid created by combining the transmission systems of the California Independent System Operator Corp. (ISO) and PacifiCorp, an Oregon energy company.

"California is leading the way as the world responds to climate change. With this regional approach we are demonstrating it is possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the West through coordinated planning and more fully utilizing renewable energy sources. The transformation of the two largest electric transmission grids in the West can help incorporate more low-environmental impact renewable energy for the region, reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout and sharing the benefits of solar, winds and other renewable energy sources with our neighboring states during times when the demand is high."

- **Robert Weisenmiller, chair,
California Energy Commission**

"In view of land-use restrictions limiting wind energy development inside California, CalWEA is excited about the potential the western market expansion offers for more access to high-quality wind resources in the West. California will need wind energy to achieve a balanced renewable energy portfolio to deliver the cost savings demonstrated by this study."

- **Nancy Rader, executive director,
California Wind Energy Association**

"The benefits look promising and underscore the value of moving to a more diverse mix of renewable resources for meeting California's 50% renewable generation goal. I look forward to seeing the additional work being done to address environmental and job issues as well as how costs will be fairly allocated across a larger region."

- **Michael Picker, president
California Public Utilities Commission**

"This study, the first of several exploring how regional markets can help California meet our renewable energy and climate goals, clearly shows that regional markets can deliver enormous benefits by better using the existing transmission system, planning and operating the system better, sharing reserve power and flexibility resources and providing access to low-cost renewables from around the West. Upcoming studies will build on our understanding of this work and are likely to show even greater benefits as we analyze and understand the market effects more thoroughly."

- **Carl Zichella**
Natural Resources Defense Council

"The study clearly highlights the benefits of a regional grid for all customers. It shows that a regional grid creates the opportunity to integrate higher levels of renewables more efficiently and effectively across a more diverse area. This regional approach is foundational to support the historic California SB 350 legislation and carbon reduction goals of nearby states."

- **Steve Berberich, ISO President and CEO**

"The report demonstrates clearly that a true regional grid in the West could provide significant benefits for customers. We will continue to coordinate with stakeholders and regulators to ensure that moving forward is in the best interest of customers and our states."

- **Cindy Crane, President and CEO,**
Rocky Mountain Power, a unit of PacifiCorp
serving customers in Utah, Wyoming and
Idaho