



May 2, 2017

Comments of the GridWise Alliance in Support of the Expedited Approval of the Mission-Old Town Project Using Power Flow Control Devices

The GridWise Alliance (GridWise) is an organization that represents the broad and diverse stakeholders that design, build, and operate the electric grid, including electric utilities, information technology (IT) and telecommunications equipment and service providers, regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs), National Laboratories, academic institutions, and others.¹ You might be aware that your organization, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), is a GridWise member, as are Smart Wires and Sempra/San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

GridWise appreciates the CAISO's effort to validate and expedite SDG&E's proposed Mission-Old Town project using a combination of resources, technologies, and capabilities. GridWise believes this project provides a cost-effective, innovative, and nimble way to address the key issues, including minimizing the potential for load-shedding in San Diego and avoiding likely stranded assets and stranded costs. GridWise would like to express its support for the expedited approval of the Mission-Old Town Project, which would include the use of power flow control devices. To elaborate, GridWise's support for this project is driven by many compelling reasons:

- This is a short-term problem that needs a short-term solution. Smart Wires' power flow control solutions can be redeployed, meaning that the devices can be moved after the short-term need has ended.
- Power flow control devices are the appropriate solution for this problem: This technological solution can meet (and probably uniquely) this aggressive in-service date, can provide a high level of system flexibility, and likely will save consumers money.
- We consider this deployment to be quite valuable not only for SDG&E, but for all of California. Putting power flow control types of solutions firmly in the toolkit of SDG&E allows it to respond to unexpected changes in power flows quickly and to complete future installations of such technology(ies) in a fraction of the time. This would leverage the knowledge and experience gained from this first project which also would be transferable to other California utilities (if not more broadly across the United States). I understand that, if this project were to move forward on an expedited basis with the Smart Wires power flow control devices, other California utilities would be invited to learn from this deployment,

¹ GridWise's RTO, ISO, and National Laboratory members and the Bonneville Power Administration do not participate in advocacy activities and therefore do not have any role or representation in this letter.

providing them additional technological options to consider for enhancing transmission capacity and efficiency.

This project represents a new approach for investing in transmission infrastructure, something that we have been promoting for many years. GridWise commends the CAISO and SDG&E for considering these cost-effective, flexible, and strategic investments to facilitate electric system optimization, reliability, and resilience. GridWise supports the expedited approval of this project and appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments.

For questions about this Submission, please contact me at: shauser@gridwise.org or (202).530.9740

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Hauser".

Steven G. Hauser
CEO
GridWise Alliance