

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER, CHAIR

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September 11, 2014

The Honorable Robert Foster
Chairman, Board of Governors
California ISO
250 Outcropping Way
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear Chairman Foster:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed enhancements to the California ISO (CAISO) transmission planning standards that is scheduled for the September 18, 2014 Board Meeting.

The transition of the electricity sector to a cleaner and sustainable future is critical to meet our long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. California is committed to achieving these goals and is leading the nation on interconnecting renewable resources into the electric grid. Renewable resources tend to be intermittent, so fundamental to success of renewable integration will be the continued safety and reliability of the electric grid.

The proposed CAISO planning standards address three areas that are the foundation of future grid reliability. First are the changes that keep current with national standards, which are required and for which compliance is given. Second is a new standard that codifies an existing practice, which has been proven effective and appropriate especially most recently in our response to the early retirement of the San Onofre nuclear generating station. This standard requires planning in densely populated areas to a criteria that addresses credible multiple contingencies (*aka*, N-1-1). And third is also a new standard, which also codifies an existing practice, to address special circumstances where the impact of extreme events warrants greater resilience (*e.g.*, the San Francisco peninsula).

As we continue to enhance the portfolio of California's energy resources we must always assure an infrastructure that appropriately supports and enables this progress and also enhances reliability. The proposed CAISO planning standards are an example of what is necessary and appropriate for California. It is because of this that I offer my support for these policy changes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Weisenmiller".

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER
Chair

CC: Board of Governors, California ISO
Steve Berberich, CEO and President, California ISO
Mike Peevey, President, California Public Utilities Commission
Rob Oglesby, Executive Director