Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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California Energy Commission
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December 15, 2014

Steve Berberich
President and CEO
California Independent System Operator
P.O. Box 639014
Folsom, CA 95763-9014

RE: San Luis Transmission Project Support

Dear Mr. Berberich:

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) and to encourage the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to facilitate the appropriate review and planning of this important project. The SLTP is a proposed 62-mile 500-kV electric transmission line connecting the Tracy and Los Banos substations in the San Joaquin Valley. This important Federal project is proposed by the Western Area Power Administration on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation for construction entirely within or adjacent to the corridor(s) of existing high voltage transmission facilities. The SLTP is critical for San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and south Bay Area Central Valley Project (CVP) water users providing long term power supply reliability and cost certainty. As you are aware, water and energy use are closely tied in California and the efficient and reliable delivery of low cost energy (for water pumping) is critical to ensuring water rates remain affordable for residents, farms and businesses in our districts. Federal agencies are pursuing this project as the least cost, most reliable long-term option for water customers. Importantly, the project will also provide substantial benefits to the entire San Joaquin Valley and electric customers served by the CAISO, including:

- Strengthens a key transmission corridor and enhances reliability of energy and water supplies
- Expands transmission capability and flexibility in the San Joaquin Valley and facilitates the movement of power throughout the entire state
- Strategically positions the San Joaquin Valley for important expansion of renewable energy projects, key to helping the state achieve greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy objectives
- Maximizes efficient use of an existing transmission corridor in a manner that is consistent with state policy, minimizing environmental impacts and reducing infrastructure costs

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Equally important, SLTP provides much needed infrastructure development, investment and job creation in our districts and the San Joaquin Valley. The SLTP will create jobs during the construction phase and help support future economic growth by supporting the delivery of affordable energy to the region. As an area that continues to be hard hit by chronic double-digit unemployment and exceedingly high levels of poverty, SLTP project benefits will help sustain the people who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration. Cooperation between the state and federal agencies to ensure efficient and reliable energy delivery is critical. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure the success of SLTP and bring its many important benefits to the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Costa

Rep. Devin Nunes

Rep. Sam Farr

Rep. Jeff Denham

Rep. Zoe Lofgren

Rep. David Valadao

Cc:

Board of Governors, CAISO
Karen Edson, CAISO
Keith Casey, CAISO
CPUC Commissioners
CEC Commissioners
Administration