

# Memorandum

To: Robert P. Oglesby  
Executive Director

Date : July 20, 2012

Telephone: CALNET (916 ) 653-0363

From : **California Energy Commission**  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814-5512

Subject: **STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE ENERGY COMMISSION'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG) PROGRAM GUIDELINES AT THE AUGUST 9, 2012 BUSINESS MEETING**

## Summary of Item

With input and guidance from the Energy Commission's Lead American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Commissioner, Karen Douglas, revisions are being proposed to the EECBG Program Guidelines to extend the program deadline from September 13, 2012, to September 13, 2013, consistent with a one-year extension to the Energy Commission's ARRA EECBG award from the U.S. Department of Energy, award no. DE-EE0000905. In addition, references to the Energy Commission's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Ad Hoc Committee are being deleted, because this committee no longer exists, and is being replaced with a reference to the Energy Commission's Executive Director. The Executive Director will now be authorized to carry out certain activities as specified in the proposed revisions to the EECBG Program Guidelines.

## Justification for Action Requested

The Guideline revisions will allow certain EECBG Program contract and grant awards to be extended to maximize the use of the EECBG Program funds, consistent with the Energy Commission's ARRA EECBG award from the U.S. Department of Energy.

## CEQA Compliance

The Energy Commission's adoption of the Guideline revisions are exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15000 et seq.), because the adoption of the revisions does not constitute a project under CEQA. The Guideline revisions relate to the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve a commitment to a specific project that may result in a

potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15378 (b)(4).)

Additionally, the Guideline revisions fall within the "common sense" exemption of the CEQA regulations. This exemption indicates that CEQA only applies to projects that have a significant effect on the environment. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15061 (b)(3).) A significant effect on the environment is defined as substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21068; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15382.) The Guideline revisions will not create an adverse effect on the environment.

#### Oral Presentation

Staff will be prepared to discuss its recommendation and to respond to questions regarding the EECBG Program Guideline revisions.

#### Business Meeting Participants

Amir Ehyai, Fuels and Transportation Division.  
Gabe Herrera, Office of Chief Counsel.

#### Commission Action Requested

Approve the revisions to the EECBG Program Guidelines.

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PAT PEREZ, Deputy Director  
Fuels and Transportation Division