

## Annual Software License and Subscription Renewals

**Contact:** Christopher D. McLean (1-2925)

**Time Needed:** 5 Minutes

**Action Requested:** Electricity Analysis Office (EAO) staff requests approval for expenditure of funds for the purposes of annual software license and subscription renewals in accordance with the approved fiscal year 2012-2013 budget line items for each of the following products and services: PLEXOS (including XPRESS-MP Solver licenses), Ventyx Velocity Suite, and the California Independent System Operator (CA ISO) Reporting Service, as provided by Customized Energy Solutions, Inc.

**Business Meeting Date:** June 12, 2013

### **Background:**

Ventyx, \$73,416 Budgeted:

The on-line database and associated tools allow the EAO instant access to historic and real time information on electricity, natural gas, coal, and emissions markets. This is a user-friendly tool and database, in contrast to past practices of searching different database and information websites. The tool allows staff to query and compare information from different sources, which expedites any analysis. EAO uses Energy Velocity to analyze energy system operations and market trends, respond to energy-related inquiries, and develop model inputs regarding various aspects of the electricity systems throughout the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. Energy Velocity is used to support the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) studies, other program evaluations, and respond to stakeholder questions.

PLEXOS, \$95,865 Budgeted:

The PLEXOS production cost modeling and simulation software is critical to EAO electricity system studies. The tool enables evaluation of multiple resource development scenarios, in support of the IEPR and other system studies, such as once-through-cooling assessments and renewable integration evaluations. The license to the PLEXOS software has afforded EAO with deeper evaluation capabilities in the California ISO renewable integration studies venue than many other stakeholders, as much of the study effort utilizes a model developed in PLEXOS.

CA ISO Reporting by Customized Energy Solutions, Inc., \$30,000 Budgeted:

The service consists of summaries of the vast majority of California ISO public stakeholder meetings, tracking of key stakeholder initiative processes, as well as, industry-wide issue and policy monitoring. Additionally, client-specific Market Update

Conference Calls and access to the subject matter experts at Customized Energy Solutions (CES) encompass further value-added service.

The service has been available to the entire Energy Commission via Energynet since the renewal of the service subscription in 2012, and this mode of availability will be continued.

**Justification for Action Requested:** Staff continues to find these tools and services to be valuable resources, reducing the amount of time required to examine different information sources and expanding the ability to analyze associated energy trends.

**Pros and Cons:** These tools increase staff capabilities to effectively analyze various energy trends and promptly respond to inquiries. If these licenses and subscriptions are not renewed, staff will require more time to query different data sources for information and will have limited ability to analyze information in a thorough and timely manner.

**What Happens Next:** Completion of the approval and signature processes for each annual license or subscription renewal will yield paid invoices and access to each resource through fiscal year 2013-2014.