

LWVC Statement to Joint Agency Energy Action Plan Committee  
Wednesday, September 8, 2004,  
California Energy Commission, Sacramento, CA

The LWVC is pleased to have this opportunity to address the Joint Agency Committee on the Energy Action Plan. We especially value the importance of bringing together the heads of the three major energy agencies to guide implementation of the Integrated Energy Plans so that adopted strategies reflect a balance of the different perspectives represented by the participating agencies. This balance must be kept in mind as objectives are considered. Not only should the agencies work in concert, but the charge of each should carry equal weight in deliberations.

A well-run electricity industry is one that addresses the legitimate concerns of citizens in terms of reliability and stability, cost and consumer protection, environmental protection, as well as the economic well-being of the state. We believe, insofar as is possible, that long-range resource planning, including all aspects of the portfolio, is in the best interest of the public.

We heartily encourage all measures to increase conservation and efficiency on the part of customers, including customer incentives and dynamic pricing. With action to provide utilities with investment rewards for measures that reduce energy demand, you have justly secured conservation and efficiency, as well as renewables, as cornerstones of state energy policy. This policy should extend to all energy providers, as should requirements to comply with the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Increased reliance on clean, renewable resources is, in itself, a good objective, but if distributed generation sources require additional transmission to bring the power to load, decisions should be made within a framework of regional grid planning. The League is a strong advocate for statewide land use planning, and, in connection with designing transmission corridors, it is difficult to see how successful long-range decisions can be made without adequate understanding of land-use and development factors, now and into the future. Regional planning, a process successful in other areas of resource management, should be an intrinsic step in electricity planning as well. Thereby, local governments would be kept informed, and would have a voice in plant siting and transmission corridor planning. The consumer public would have a better understanding of the needs and constraints of the system. Facility siting is as much a public as an industry issue, and should be treated as such.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

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