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From: "Thomas Tenorio" <tenorio@sunset.net>
To: <docket@energy.state.ca.us>
Date: 6/13/2006 12:09:59 AM
Subject: Comments at Joint CEC-CPUC Workshop Re: CSI

I am submitting the attached comments to the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission for their joint workshop on the California Solar Initiative. I will also offer up these comments at the workshop scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2006 in Sacramento. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas Tenorio

Executive Director

Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.

& Chair, Legislative/Public Policy Committee of the California/Nevada
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California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

My name is Thomas Tenorio. I am the Executive Director of the Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc., a long time nonprofit that provides a variety of human services and community development services designed to promote self-sufficiency amongst California's low-income families. I also chair the Legislative & Public Policy Committee of the California/Nevada Community Action Partnership, a statewide association of community action agencies. For over 30 years I and dozens of my colleagues in every county of the state have delivered energy conservation services to low-income families. It is this experience and the benefit to those households that lead me to the recommendations that I submit today. Both Commissions are commended for approaching this new resource with vision and sensitivity.

Under the Topic of Expectations and Goals for Solar in Affordable Housing we recommend that the Commissions include:

- The expectation that solar improvements will be viewed as a conservation strategy that is an important part of a broad set of conservation strategies. This spectrum of strategies, when viewed together, pose a comprehensive approach to achieving CSI goals. We are also one of only a few nonprofits that participates in the utility company programs. While the utility company programs emphasize energy efficiency it is our contention that their success has fallen short of a true conservation strategy. This assessment is based upon the expanded set of strategies that we administer through other public programs.
- The goal that CSI resources will leverage additional benefits for both low-income families and energy conservation interests through the use of existing conduits and programs that have a history and capacity to efficiently reach low-income residents. For over 30 years community action agencies, under the administration of the California State Department of Community Services and Development, have delivered quality and effective energy conservation services funded by both the federal (LIHEAP,DOE, PVEA) and state governments (Cal-LIHEAP). Some of us also deliver services funded by local publicly-owned utilities. The leveraging approach maximizes energy conservation benefit for provider and recipient. The state enjoys multiple benefits. Thank you.