



Local Government Commission

1303 J Street • Suite 250 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 448-1198

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
12-EPIC-1

TN # 66408

AUG 01 2012

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Dear Commissioner Peterson,

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We are writing to express our support for the EPIC program. The Local Government Commission is a nonprofit organization that provides inspiration, technical assistance, and networking to local elected officials and other dedicated community leaders who are working to create healthy, walkable, and resource-efficient communities. We are writing to comment on the investment plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge Program of the state of California. There is no doubt that rate-payer funded *public interest* research and development into alternative sources of energy, improvements in energy generation, transmission, and siting, fuel substitution, and other topics related to energy supply, demand, public safety, ecology, and conservation are of statewide importance. We fully support EPIC funding for studies, research projects, data collection, and other activities required to assess the nature, extent, and distribution of energy resources to meet the needs of the state. Both of these missions are stated in Public Resources Code Sections 45216 (c) and 25401.

We urge the CEC to continue to include funding that examines the relationships between land use, building types, densities, socio-demographic and economic trends, and energy use. There is an irreducible link between land use patterns and energy use- building types, locations and distances among them drive the state's energy use of all sorts, including energy to transport water. Moreover understanding energy-use patterns can also help identify industries and businesses that are leaders in energy conservation. The CEC PIER program has been funding this analysis under the rubric of Urban Metabolism – energy flows into urban systems and waste flows out – to establish more fine grained and textured understanding of what is going on in the region's urban areas. To achieve the state's desired goals of reducing wasteful, inefficient, unnecessary or uneconomic uses of energy, such research must be undertaken so that policy makers have the information necessary. For example, this kind of analysis can help inform which industries are the greenest in energy and water consumption and assist in economic development programs and policies to develop and attract those industries.

This work also informs SB 375 and AB 32 implementation as it provides the needed data to determine GHG emissions derived from energy consumption. We believe this work will help regions meet their GHG emission reduction goals.

We believe that public interest energy research is essential for the state's energy future, and for the well being of its residents and are therefore pleased that the EPIC program is going forward!

Sincerely,

Kate Meis
Associate Director
Local Government Commission