



California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
12-EPIC-1

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August 16, 2012

VIA EMAIL

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. **12-EPIC-01**
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

I am writing on behalf of Taft College and the West Kern Community College District *in response to the Request for Comments on the EPIC Program of the California Energy Commission*. On behalf of the West Kern Community College District, we would like to be considered as an "innovation cluster" hub for the CEC's EPIC program.

The West Kern Community College District is a single community college district located in Taft in western Kern County, which is part of the San Joaquin Valley of central California. Taft College is a two-year, public community college with a critical mission to ensure successful outcomes in student success, retention, degree completion, and workforce development. Taft College is the only institution of higher education in western Kern County and serves a 735 square mile service area. Taft College is the only avenue to higher education within this service area, which is undergoing dramatic demographic and economic change. Additionally, the community served by Taft College is home of the biggest oil reserves in the nation outside of Texas. Over the past several years Taft College has developed close working relationships with the energy industry to address industry needs. In particular, the College has launched an Energy Technology degree program with an emphasis on technologies used in the petroleum industry, and is exploring other regional educational needs based on emerging technologies as they relate to the industry sector.

Our work in the energy sector has included developing strong relations with industry leaders who have served on our Advisory Board and are helping us develop our educational programs. The energy industry has also been very supportive of our Science, Technology, Energy and Math (STEM) initiatives.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the California Energy Commission to establish a formal program around innovation clusters. We are interested in developing training programs and research opportunities in renewable energy technologies in oilfield operation. Specifically, Taft College is interested in researching the impact of intelligent oilfields to reduce fuel intensive site visits and energy efficient "fracturing" techniques.

We would like to thank the Commission for consideration of these comments on this vital program for the State's economic future.

Sincerely,

Dena P. Maloney, Ed.D.
Superintendent-President