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California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Commissioners:

The California Conservation Corps ("CCC") appreciates the opportunity provided by the California Energy Commission ("CEC") to comment on the intentional goals, operational focus and practical implementation aspects of the new EPIC program. As noted in the comments submitted on 10 August 2012 by the Department of Industrial Relations, a critically important aspect of EPIC is the opportunity to focus on "work force development" and "job creation," in conjunction with energy and cost savings and the resulting statewide economic stimulus, as an important and highly beneficial aspect of all EPIC programs and projects.

EPIC Opportunities: EPIC represents an opportunity for the CEC and Investor Owned Utilities to work closely with the CCC and partner Local Conservation Corps throughout the state to more cost effectively apply EPIC program funds toward energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that also create jobs within the California energy industry, save energy and related costs, and make a substantially beneficial economic impact on behalf of the citizens of California. As the CPUC has stated regarding the EPIC program, under the CEC's determination, EPIC funding can and should be applied to all of the following categories: "Energy & Cost Savings, Job Creation, Economic Benefits, Environmental Benefits and other Societal Benefits."

CCC & Energy: The CCC was established in 1976 by Governor Jerry Brown. For 36 years the CCC, in partnership with the 13 Local Conservation Corps, has provided and created exemplary job and workforce training education programs, and employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Corpsmembers (Californians between the ages of 18 and 25). The CCC and the Local Corps have a long history of successful engagement in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and programs in partnership with Utilities, California state agencies, for-profit and non-profit companies and local government agencies. The 26 CCC Operating Centers and 13 Local Corps currently train and engage thousands of Corpsmembers per year distributed throughout the state. The CCC and Local Corps can provide extensive human resources, substantial infrastructure, and a wide range of support services for many types of energy related Programs and Projects.

The most recent large scale and statewide example of the CCC's provision of Corpsmembers and services for energy efficiency programs is the highly successful CEC/ARRA EnergySmart Jobs Program ("ESJ Program"). The ESJ Program created a statewide partnership that included PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, Municipal Owned Utilities, the CCC, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps ("LACC"), energy efficiency program implementers, contractors, community colleges, private corporations, equipment manufacturers, service providers and others. The ESJ Program resulted in the creation of 265 jobs, more than 62 million kWh of energy saved per year on a sustainable basis, $6 million saved annually for rate payers in energy costs, and the creation of substantial economic benefits for Californians located throughout the State.

CCC Services For EPIC Programs: The CCC's ability to provide statewide, highly cost effective and well managed human resources and services, infrastructure, support, dispatch, and field supervision for EPIC programs and projects makes the CCC uniquely well positioned to satisfy EPIC's stated intent regarding "Workforce Development" and "Jobs Creation".

The CCC has established an energy efficiency and renewable energy operational focus that allows it to offer a wide range of highly cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy services on a contracted basis to all EPIC program providers and implementers. Examples of such services include:

- Energy Efficiency Audits, Surveys, and Census
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Installation, Labor, Apprenticeship and Installation Verification
- Program Marketing and Outreach Services
- Energy Efficiency Training and Curriculum Development

Recommendation: For all of the reasons, purposes, and goals identified in this letter, the California Conservation Corps respectfully requests that, as may be possible and consistent with their program designs, requirements, and goals, the CEC, Investor Owned Utilities, and all eventual EPIC Program providers, implementers, and evaluators make planned and intentional use of CCC Corpsmembers and services as an integral part of their program designs, implementations, and evaluations. In this way, the critically important EPIC goals of "Energy & Cost Savings, Job Creation, Economic Benefits, Environmental Benefits and other Societal Benefits" will be realized in the most cost effective and economically beneficial manner on behalf of the electric rate payers and citizens of California.

Sincerely,

Martha Diepenbrock

Martha Diepenbrock
External Affairs Director