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LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Administrative Offices
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Comments Regarding the EPIC Program

August 17, 2012

The Los Angeles California Conservation Corps ("LACorps") appreciates the opportunity to comment on the goals, intent and purposes of the California Energy Commission's ("CEC") EPIC program. The LACorps concurs with the comments submitted by the Department of Industrial Relations that a critical and important aspect of EPIC is the opportunity to focus on "work force development" and "job creation" within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

The LACorps agrees also with the comments made by the California Conservation Corps ("CCC") that EPIC represents an important opportunity for the CEC, all Investor Owned Utilities, and program providers to work closely with the LACorps, other Local Conservation Corps, and the CCC throughout the state to create more cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that are consistent with the stated purposes of the EPIC program. These EPIC program purposes should also be strongly focused (from the design phase to implementation phase) on the creation of jobs, skills, valuable work experience, and provide fundamental economic stimulus opportunities for many unemployed and under employed young citizens of California.

For more than 25 years, the LACorps has been providing critically needed training, education, skills training and employment opportunities for many tens of thousands of young people in southern California. The LACorps has a long history of successfully working with Utilities such as Southern California Edison, corporations of all types, and local governments on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and programs in southern California. The LACorps also partners with CCC and other Local Conservation Corps to provide Corpsmembers, infrastructure, and a wide range of support services for many types of energy related Programs and Projects. A recent example of the LACorps' continuing and successful work in energy efficiency programs is its partnership with the CCC in helping to make the CEC's EnergySmart Jobs Program ("ESJ Program") a substantial success throughout the state.

The LACorps recommends that the CEC, Investor Owned Utilities, and all eventual EPIC Program providers, implementers, and evaluators should make planned and intentional use of the CCC, and its partnerships with Local Corps, for the provision of Corpsmembers and services throughout the state 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.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide the CEC with comments regarding the EPIC Program. The LACorps looks forward to working with EPIC Programs to accomplish all of the goals stated for EPIC.

Sincerely,

Bruce Saito
Executive Director

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