

August 17, 2012

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

Sent via email: docket@energy.ca.gov

**STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS of
SOLADYNE CAPITAL**

**FIRST TRIENNIAL INVESTMENT PLAN
ELECTRIC PROGRAM INVESTMENT CHARGE (EPIC) PROGRAM
California Energy Commission
California Public Utilities Commission**

INTRODUCTION and OVERVIEW

SolaDyne Capital appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utility Commission for the First Triennial Investment Plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program. This program provides an opportunity to support the development of technologies that automatically manage electrical demand in the business sector—specifically in the Quick Service Restaurant Sector (“QSR”). The QSR sector’s High Energy Use Intensity, Low Load Factor and intermittent equipment use provides a large load shifting and balancing opportunity.

The Quick Service Restaurant sector represents a significant portion of grid resources. In California alone, there are 27,000 QSR units (per the USDA Food Economic Research Service, *Food Environment Atlas* dated June 2012) with an average of 35kW Peak Demand, based on a limited portfolio analysis. By extrapolation, the total projected QSR Energy Demand is 945MW, or approximately 2% of Grid Peak Demand (approximately 50,000MW as per cpuc.ca.gov). On a per square foot basis, QSR’s have a high-energy use profile, approximately \$14 / SF per year (based on SRS Building Performance database) compared to the Office sector at \$2.50 / SF per year. The QSR sector’s Low Load Factor and intermittent equipment use provides a large load shifting and balancing opportunity. Limited portfolio analysis has shown a 20% to 30% reduction in Peak Demand.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support funding of QSR energy research, and interface with California universities to research this business sector’s energy behavior.
- Support funding for research on Energy use and peak demand in commercial buildings, specifically in the QSR sector and how it can be reduced by implementing various energy information technologies that monitor the current operations and support automated demand reductions. Monitors and information displays can provide circuit level information on energy usage and real-time load demand, enabling users to understand how their energy is being used

and to implement operational strategies that optimize operations and lower peak demand while maintaining current operating standards.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the opportunity to support projects in the QSR business sector as above will provide IOU electric ratepayer benefits, including: mitigating peak demand by this sector, illustrate benefits to operators and stakeholders., increase competitiveness in the energy information and management technology market.

Sincerely,

Luis Bobadilla
Director,
SolaDyne Capital
619-368-3370
l.bobadilla@soladynecapital.com