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October 1, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

California Energy Commission Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



SUBJECT: DOCKET NO. 12-EPIC-01

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the first triennial investment plan for the administration of the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funds.

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency. Our agency is a wholesale water supplier in Northern California and has a significant role in hydropower and renewable energy generation in our area. We are the local sponsor for two federal reservoirs that supply drinking water for about 600,000 people.

I am pleased to express our appreciation for language in the draft investment plan that addresses tools and technologies to reduce energy stresses on aquatic resources as well as improved water-energy management (Section S5.3, Pages 73 to 75). As a water supplier and energy producer we are well aware of the need to develop new capability to manage water and energy projects in ways that are also protective of aquatic resources. Applied research in this area could reduce delays and accelerate approval of future federal hydroelectric power project licenses.

We would urge the Commission to consider adding additional language to the text of the investment plan under section S5.3 regarding advanced understanding of meteorological processes. Suggested language is as follows:

“Research conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Atmospheric Research has delineated the importance atmospheric rivers, a weather phenomenon that delivers most of the precipitation and runoff in much of California. This initiative will support efforts by NOAA to implement an advanced atmospheric river monitoring system which would significantly improve basic capability to monitor atmospheric rivers and improve precipitation forecasting from these events.”

We believe the work on atmospheric rivers forecasting could enable us to optimize reservoir management in a manner that is beneficial for both energy production and the protection of aquatic resources.

Please feel free to contact us if you require additional information regarding the atmospheric rivers monitoring effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Anderson,
Government Affairs