

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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November 7, 2013

Michael Peevey, President
Commissioners
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear President Peevey and Commissioners:

I asked my Office of Governmental Affairs Director, Jay Dickenson, to read the following comments today at the CPUC En Banc Hearing: A Public Hearing on General Order 156, the Supplier Diversity Program. I wanted to take the opportunity to formalize the comments to the Commission as well as notify the public, legislature, utilities, and participants in the Electricity Program Investment Charge of my intentions.

I am dedicated to the Energy Commission complying with the spirit of the AB 340. We are fortunate to reside in California. Its geography, topography, natural resources, and its people are extremely diverse, perhaps more so than anywhere else on earth. Our clean energy research workforce should reflect this diversity and provide benefits to all Californians, particularly the disadvantaged. I have directed Energy Commission staff to look for a way to carry out the spirit of AB 340 in implementing the Electricity Program Investment Charge (EPIC program).

The Energy Commission is committed to increasing the participation of women, minorities, and disabled veterans under its implementation of the EPIC program. To this end, the Energy Commission can:

1. Initiate an outreach plan to ensure that women, minorities, and disabled veterans know about and understand how to participate in EPIC program activities, especially solicitations for projects.
2. Target particular geographic regions within the state (e.g., energy efficiency retrofits in economically depressed communities) for certain program activities (e.g., job training).
3. Energy Commission's proposed EPIC Investment Plan includes initiatives related to low-income communities. For example, the plan proposes funding for bioenergy projects that demonstrate integration/reliability services, net local air quality benefits, and provide other ratepayer and environmental benefits in the Central Valley and other locations in the state, many of which include large numbers of low-income residents.

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4. Track, monitor, and report on the participation of women-, minority-, and disabled-veteran-owned businesses using the same definitions as the investor-owned utilities use via CPUC General Order 156. This will allow an apples-to-apples comparison from all of the EPIC administrators when submitting annual reports to the CPUC.

Through these efforts, I am pleased that the Energy Commission can meet the spirit of AB 340.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Weisenmiller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER
Chair

cc: Assemblymember Bradford