

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



## **Notice of Staff Workshop on PIER Research Assessing and Reducing the Impacts of Energy Infrastructure on Wildlife**

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff will conduct a workshop to present new research findings from projects funded by the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program on reducing the impacts of energy infrastructure on wildlife. The main goal of these PIER research projects is to advance science to facilitate the deployment of energy facilities such as wind and other renewable sources of energy.

**Wednesday, July 20, 2011**

9:30 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Hearing Room B

Sacramento, California

(Wheelchair Accessible)

### **Remote Attendance**

**Web Conferencing** - Presentations and audio from the meeting will be broadcast via the WebEx web conferencing system. For details on how to participate via WebEx, please see the "[Participation through WebEx](#)" section at the end of this notice.

### **Purpose**

The main purposes of this workshop are to share new research results, discuss potential scientific collaboration, and discuss new venues of research that future PIER research projects should cover to complement other research initiatives. The principal investigators will describe the results of PIER-funded research projects such as studies on the interactions of birds and/or bats with wind energy and transmission line facilities as well as a project investigating desert tortoise survivorship at a renewable energy facility. After the presentations, Energy Commission staff will lead a public discussion on future research needs.

### **Background**

The mission of the PIER program's Energy-Related Environmental Research Area is to develop cost-effective approaches to evaluate and resolve environmental effects of

energy production, delivery and use in California and to explore how new electricity applications and products can solve environmental problems. PIER research falls into three main categories: Smart Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency.

Several of the projects to be presented are directly related to research recommendations identified in the October 2007, document *California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development (Guidelines)* and the October, 2008 document *A Roadmap for PIER Research on Methods to Assess and Mitigate Impacts of Wind Energy Development on Birds and Bats in California (Roadmap)*. The Energy Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game developed the *Guidelines* to provide recommendations for assessing and minimizing the impacts of wind energy development on birds and bats. The *Guidelines* used the best science available at the time of publication. The subsequent *Roadmap* identified research needed to resolve the most significant uncertainties and knowledge gaps identified in the *Guidelines*. Finally, in December, 2008, PIER released a request for proposals related to research identified in the *Roadmap*. Several of the projects to be presented were selected from that request for proposals. The results of this research will improve methods to assess and mitigate impacts of wind energy development on birds and bats in California and will inform future revisions of the *Guidelines*.

In addition, one project to be presented is investigating the relative avian electrocution risks associated with distribution pole and distribution structure designs, developing a risk assessment model associated with these designs, and evaluating the effectiveness of retrofit measures in reducing outages. The final project to be presented is investigating long-term desert tortoise population and reproduction levels at a wind energy facility and will develop potential mitigation measures for wind farm development and repowering in desert tortoise habitat.

## Written Comments

Written comments on the workshop topics must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on July 29, 2011. Please indicate Wildlife Impacts in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please hand deliver or mail an original to:

California Energy Commission  
John Mathias, MS-43  
Re: Wildlife Impacts  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name or organization's in the name of the file (providing your name is not required – it is voluntary – and providing it makes it accessible under the California Public Records Act). Those submitting comments by electronic mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document (PDF) to <mailto:jmathias@energy.state.ca.us>.

## Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact Jennifer Jennings, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us]. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us]. If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this forum, please call John Mathias, Energy Commission Specialist 1 at (916) 327-2381 or by e-mail at jmathias@energy.state.ca.us.

## Participation through WebEx, the Energy Commission's on-line meeting service

### Computer Log on with a Direct Phone Number:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: **921 486 938**
- When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password **meeting@9**
- After you log in, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide your phone number. In the Number box, type your area code and phone number and click OK to receive a call back on your phone for the audio of the meeting. International callers can use the "Country/Region" button to help make their connection.

### Computer Log on for Callers with an Extension Phone Number, etc.:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: **921 486 938**
- When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password **meeting@9**
- After you log in, a prompt will ask for your phone number. **CLICK CANCEL.**
- Instead call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number above and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your screen after you log in. International callers can dial in using the "Show all global call-in numbers" link (also in the top left area).

### Telephone Only (No Computer Access):

Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the unique meeting number: **921 486 938**. International callers can select their number from [<https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>].

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

List Server Distribution: [Energy RD&D/PIER Program, Wind Energy and Avian Mortality](#)