



March 3, 2015

Send to: Eli.Harland@energy.ca.gov

Subject: EPIC Implementation Workshop Public Comments

Dear Mr. Harland,

This letter affirms San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) strong support of continued public funding for research centers such as the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) and the Western Cooling Efficiency Center (WCEC) at UC Davis. These are applied research, development, and demonstration centers founded in large part based on CEC funding. Both centers grew out of a close collaboration between the industry partners (companies large and small), California's investor-owned utilities (CA IOUs), and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to encompass a broad research, demonstration, education and training portfolio.

Like other CA IOUs, SDG&E has collaborated with both centers since their inceptions. The centers engage in activities to advance the lighting market and HVAC market toward innovations and greater efficiency. They support efforts and projects which benefit SDG&E's Emerging Technologies and RD&D Programs, and subsequently utility ratepayers.

We encourage the Energy Commission to pursue its strategy on conducting a solicitation to support university-based research centers. In particular, we are urging the Energy Commission to start such a solicitation process as soon as possible, with a goal of awarding and allocating funding to the successful centers in time to avoid fiscal disruption and allow a center to maintain its critical workforce and capabilities. It's important to avoid any long-term negative impacts that might result from temporary financial shortfalls, especially for centers in the State that focus on the top of the loading order: energy efficiency and peak-load reduction.

Competitive, public solicitations are good vehicles for delivering a specific set of services and work products with a well-defined set of expectations. However, addressing the long-term efficiency needs of California requires an integrated, yet flexible, program of activities in addition to the competitive solicitations model. Centers can be trusted to build effective partnerships among labor, industry, utilities and regulatory entities to select appropriate strategies and technologies and realize their potential in the market. This has been proven by the Lighting and HVAC centers at UC Davis to be very effective in the process of moving innovation from the laboratory to the marketplace. Without further programmatic support for centers like these, many of these activities will be in jeopardy.

Investing in research centers such as CLTC and WCEC with flexible, multi-year funds presents the opportunity to effectively integrate and address long-term energy efficiency issues that cannot be obtained through individual project solicitations in different activity areas and at different times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caroline Winn".

Caroline Winn
Vice President of Customer Services
San Diego Gas & Electric Company

Cc:
Chairman Robert Weisenmiller
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Deputy Director Laurie ten Hope