

# RETI and Transmission Corridors

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# Current Renewable Transmission Planning Activities

- Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI)
- California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG)
- CAISO Renewable Energy Transmission Planning Process (RETPP)
- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Executive Order S-14-08
- Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
  
- CEC Transmission Corridor Planning and Designation
- CPUC OII/OIR for Transmission to Access Renewables
- CEC Strategic Transmission Investment Plan



# CEC Corridor Planning and Designation

- Designate and preserve corridor zones to meet long-term transmission infrastructure needs (PRC section 25331).
- Facilitate development of renewable generation.
- Improve reliability of transmission system.
- Streamline permitting and increase certainty of permitting outcomes.
- Provide a link between transmission planning and permitting.
- Involve local, state and federal governments, generators, other stakeholders, and the public in planning for transmission corridor zones.
- Promote consistency of land use changes with future transmission line development.



# CEC Corridor Selection Methodology

- On-line Service Date of 2020.
- Environmental Concern – low, medium, or high.
- Type of Right-of- Way (ROW) required.
  - No change to ROW due to reconductoring or rebuilding.
  - Expansion of ROW for new or rebuilding of lines.
  - New ROW proposed in a designated corridor.
  - New ROW co-located within ½ mile of existing ROW but not in a designated corridor.
- Energy Potential of Line Segment.

## Additional criteria:

- CREZ development timing based on contracts and interconnection agreements.
- Access to CREZ in BLM Solar Study Zones.
- Access to areas identified in the DRECP.
- Segments connecting to existing BLM or Section 368 corridors.



# CEC 2009 Corridor Recommendations

- CEC ,CAISO and CTPG will prioritize transmission planning and permitting efforts for renewable generation as follows; and work on overcoming barriers and finding solutions to aid their development.
- First priority will be placed on projects supported by the CEC in the 2005 and 2007 Strategic Plans
  - Imperial Irrigation District (IID)Upgrades.
  - Southern California Edison (SCE) Tehachapi Upgrades.
  - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Tehachapi Upgrade (Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project).
  - Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Central California Clean Energy Transmission Project (C3ETP)
  - Sunrise Powerlink, LEAPS Transmission Portion, Green Path North Projects



# CEC 2009 Corridor Recommendations

- The second priority will be placed on RETI Phase 2 “least regrets” projects that do not require new corridors, plus three projects (Gregg – Alpha Four, Tracy – Alpha Four, and Dillard – Tracy Two) that do not meet these criteria but are needed to complete links to Northern California load centers.
  - Kramer – Lugo 500 kV
  - Lugo – Victorville #2 500 kV
  - Devers – Mira Loma #1 and #2 500 kV
  - Gregg – Alpha Four 500 kV #1 and #2
  - Tracy – Alpha Four 500 kV #1 and #2
  - Dillard – Tracy Two 500 kV
  - Devers – Valley #3 500 kV
  - Tesla – Newark 230 kV
  - Tracy – Livermore 230 kV



# CEC 2009 Corridor Recommendations

- The third priority will be to begin outreach to those “least regrets” RETI segments that require new corridors and to begin developing phased solutions to interconnect renewable zones as generators commit to developing power plants.
- CEC staff will continue to coordinate with the RETI stakeholders group to incorporate RETI’s new information in applying the method described in Chapter 6 of the Strategic Plan to reach consensus on the appropriate transmission line segments that should be considered for corridor designation to promote renewable energy development.



# CEC Corridor Designation

- Two approaches for corridor designation:
  - Application
  - Self-designation (requiring staff to develop application)
- To date, no formal requests or applications for corridor designation have been received.
- Shorter-term focus may promote development of transmission for renewable generation.
- Where are the most viable near-term opportunities for designation?
- Are there clear locations with high value that will promote state policy goals and objectives?



# Conclusions

- RETI is informing CAISO and CTPG planning processes and development of statewide transmission plan.
- Statewide transmission plan must also be integrated with DRECP.
- Planning processes need to avoid RETI and DRECP no touch zones.
- DRECP needs to identify best possible corridors to connect CREZs in identified development areas with existing transmission grid.
- Evaluating opportunities for short-term designation to promote state policy goals.
- Seeking input from parties to inform our decision-makers.

