



California Energy Commission

Update to the Renewable Energy Policy Group (REPG)

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January 22, 2010



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Update to the Renewable Energy Policy Group Overview

- Energy Commission recognizes and understands the importance of meeting deadline for ARRA funding
- More than 30-years of decisions that consistently withstand court challenges
- These solar thermal projects are much larger and more complex
- Can't do this alone; meeting the ARRA deadline requires applicants to:
 - recognize that state and federal policies need to be addressed in project plans
 - cooperate by providing information to staff and working to resolve issues early
- Participating in DRECP and REAT
- ARRA projects have been given the highest priority



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Update to the Renewable Energy Policy Group Managing Resources

- Staffing up: hiring 25 new technical specialists and managers
- Realigning staff and managers to maximize efficiency
- Redirected senior staff to address processing bottleneck in technical areas
- Added more contractors to augment staff
- Continue to look at ways to more effectively manage staff and contract resources



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Update to the Renewable Energy Policy Group Implementing Innovative Solutions

- Conducting more and extensive pre-filing meetings to reduce number of issues
- Getting data requests out more quickly
- Trying to identify issues sooner
- Conducting additional workshops to resolve issues
- Consolidated Preliminary Staff Assessment and Final Staff Assessment Report into single report
- Reviewing technical sections by managers concurrently to shorten number of trips through review loop
- Using REAT meetings to coordinate impact analysis and mitigation strategies



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Update to the Renewable Energy Policy Group Implementing Innovative Solutions

- Exploring pilot “In Lieu” approach to mitigate impacts for contiguous projects in I-10 corridor
- Looking at potentially doing joint compliance for the I-10 contiguous projects
- Offered two new approaches to reduce time spent on evaluation of known cultural resources while AFC pending
 - Approach 1 evaluates historical significance of 25% of known cultural resources and uses that as basis for evaluation and mitigation ... Programmatic Agreement
 - Approach 2 does no evaluation now, assumes all known sites are significant and specifies mitigation of all ... Memorandum of Agreement
- Conducting siting process review and business case analysis to identify additional efficiency opportunities