

## Energy Panel Discussion Topics and Questions

The roundtable discussion will be organized into three primary topics:

- Infrastructure Planning;
- Development and System Costs; and
- Energy Markets

For each topic, participants will be asked to address the specific questions identified below from the perspective of their organization. Participants will also be asked to identify high-level principles for consideration in the DRECP development process that may strengthen the ability of the DRECP to complement existing or future planning processes; serve as a framework for reducing development and system costs; and help meet state energy policy goals in a dynamic market environment. In addition, panelists will be asked to identify additional work that may be needed to achieve these goals. At the end of the discussion for each topic key points will be summarized.

### *Infrastructure Planning*

Planning for energy infrastructure takes place at multiple levels. From developers, who seek to select potential project sites and compete for contracts, to utilities and governmental agencies, energy infrastructure decisions are made within the context of current planning processes. These existing planning processes seek to achieve, and sometimes reconcile, important policy or institutional goals.

With this in mind:

- Please describe the energy planning processes your organization undertakes or participates in, and how those processes affect infrastructure decisions?
- What goals do these processes seek to achieve?
- How does the DRECP further (or possibly conflict with) the goals that currently underlie these processes?
- How should the DRECP be incorporated into these existing processes?
- What factors related to infrastructure planning should be taken into consideration when identifying the location, scale, and distribution of renewable energy development areas in the DRECP?

### *Development and System Costs*

One important state policy goal is to reduce the costs of meeting California's renewable energy and climate goals, while realizing the many benefits of renewable energy. The DRECP has the potential to reduce renewable energy development costs by streamlining permitting, incentivizing transmission investments in strategic areas, and providing more certainty and predictability around environmental mitigation requirements. The DRECP also has the potential to reduce system costs associated with future ambitious renewable energy goals by creating a framework that may facilitate optimizing transmission investments for renewable energy, reduce integration costs, and reduce the extent of fossil back-up of the system needed. To this end:

- How might the DRECP reduce or increase development costs?
- How might DRECP reduce or increase system costs, e.g. by affecting the need for transmission, storage, back-up generation, or other infrastructure?
- What are the implications for cost, reliability, greenhouse gas and other emissions from different methods that may provide system reliability under varying high renewable energy scenarios?

- What factors related to development and system costs should be taken into consideration when identifying the location, scale, and distribution of renewable energy development areas in the DRECP?

### *Markets*

Project procurement and electricity dispatch take place within a market environment. While it is impossible to predict exactly how electricity markets will function decades in the future, it is important for us to consider how the DRECP may interact with electricity markets today and throughout the life of the plan.

- How might existing and potential new market structures influence the way in which we meet electricity system needs in high renewable energy penetration scenarios?
- To what extent should long-range planning efforts such as the DRECP account for the existing and potential new market structure and anticipated changes in market rates in high renewable energy penetration scenarios? Should these considerations influence the plan, if at all?
- How might the DRECP affect electricity markets and market rates?
- What factors related to the market environment should be taken into consideration when identifying the location, scale, and distribution of renewable energy development areas in the DRECP?