

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

*Order Instituting Rulemaking to Modernize the
Electric Grid for a High Distributed Energy
Resources Future*

Rulemaking 21-06-017
(Filed June 24, 2021)

**MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF
CALIFORNIA**

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Tel: (916) 447-4806

Dated: September 26, 2023

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I. Introduction

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) respectfully moves for party status in this proceeding in accordance with Section 1.4 of the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure.

II. Interest in this Proceeding

- A. RCRC is an association of forty¹ rural California counties, and its Board of Directors is comprised of one elected supervisor from each of those member counties. Founded in 1972, RCRC is a non-profit, mutual benefit corporation that works with its membership to advocate on behalf of rural issues and provide the rural county perspective on a myriad of topics at the state and federal levels through both the legislative and regulatory processes. A core tenant of RCRC is to promote a

¹ RCRC members include Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba counties.

greater understanding among policy makers about the unique challenges that face California's small population counties.

- B.** RCRC is particularly interested in the Amended Scoping Memo issued by Assigned Commissioner Houck on August 11, 2023, regarding Track 1 Distribution Planning, Execution Process, and Data Improvements. As a general matter, RCRC is interested in solutions to both improve utility forecasting and distribution systems and facilitate greater collaboration with local governments.
- C.** Many of RCRC's member counties have expressed concerns over both energy reliability and the timeframe for connecting new residential, commercial, and industrial development to the grid. Excessive delays have resulted in lost opportunities for transformative economic development; inhibit local ability to increase desperately needed local housing stocks; frustrate efforts to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and will stymie the state's efforts to decarbonize existing residential and commercial buildings.
- D.** RCRC will provide input based on its knowledge of California's rural counties, their populations and resources, their experience with permitting, planning and economic development, and the pressing need to expeditiously increase electric infrastructure capacity and resiliency, as well as reduce interconnection timelines in order to respond to the near- and long-term needs of community growth and withstanding the state's policy goals of de-carbonization through greater electrification of buildings and the transportation sector.

III. Notice

Service of notices, orders, and other correspondence in this proceeding should be directed to RCRC at the address set forth below:

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IV. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, RCRC respectfully requests that the CPUC grant this Motion for Party Status.

Dated: September 26, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Leigh Kammerich

Leigh Kammerich

Policy Advocate

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