



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

505 VAN NESS AVENUE | SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

300 CAPITOL MALL | SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

ALICE BUSCHING REYNOLDS
PRESIDENT

TEL: (415) 703-3700
FAX: (415) 703-3352
ALICE.REYNOLDS@CPUC.CA.GOV

March 11, 2022

Steven D. Powell
President and Chief Executive Officer
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
Steve.Powell@sce.com

Subject: Prioritization of Interconnection to Ensure Grid Reliability

Dear Mr. Powell,

Given the urgency of the climate crisis and California's efforts to both maintain reliability and transition its energy sector to zero-carbon resources, I am writing to request that SCE prioritize actions to enable critical electricity generation projects to interconnect to the transmission or distribution grid.

In the past 18 months, more than 100 new clean energy powerplants have come online to serve load in California. These powerplants are entirely carbon-free and provide a nameplate capacity of over 6,000 megawatts (MW), equivalent to approximately 3,000 MW of net qualifying capacity (NQC), including over 2,000 MW NQC of new energy storage. The successful interconnection of these resources has been essential to the ongoing transition of the electricity grid. In addition to reducing reliance on fossil fuels, these resources, together with new demand-side actions by individuals and businesses, and actions related to energy market reforms, have helped to increase energy reliability in the face of climate-change induced extreme conditions, such as heat waves, drought, and wildfires. I want to thank you and your team's efforts in this important work.

California's recent experience with new resources coming online brings our ability to maintain grid reliability while meeting our climate goals into sharp focus. To reach the goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2045, we will continue to depend on the interconnection of dozens of new clean energy resources each year.

As you are aware, CPUC-jurisdictional load-serving entities (LSEs), including SCE and other investor-owned utilities, community choice aggregators and energy service providers are entering into contracts for new resources at an unprecedented rate to comply with recent CPUC procurement orders to meet reliability needs. Based on recent data reported by LSEs to the CPUC's Energy Division, we believe there are contracts in place for approximately 200 new clean energy powerplants, with a combined future capacity of over 5,000 MW NQC that could be online and serving load by the end of 2023. These contracted resources all need to interconnect to the utility-operated distribution or transmission grids.

Against that backdrop, I am writing to ask SCE to expand its focus on efficient and safe interconnection of new wholesale generation and storage resources now and into the coming years.

The CPUC has taken numerous actions to ensure safe and reliable electric service, especially in the face of extreme heat events experienced in 2020 and 2021. Consistent with CPUC actions and Governor Newsom's July 30, 2021 [Emergency Proclamation](#) urging all state energy agencies to ensure there is adequate electricity to meet demand, **I request that SCE take the following actions and report back to the Commission by May 16, 2022, including details of how these requests have been met.**

1. Focus on ensuring SCE has sufficient resources, including increasing staffing as necessary, to support the interconnection of new projects that are critical to grid reliability in Summer 2022 and 2023.

I request that SCE take action to ensure interconnection staffing is prioritized and new resources are dedicated as needed to meet the increasing number of interconnect projects in the near term. These interconnection processes are critical to both safety and reliability, and they are highly technical and specialized.

In addition, it is imperative that SCE identify process improvements to ensure safe and efficient interconnections, and to ensure that project developers (and the LSEs depending on the projects) receive timely and reliable interconnection assistance. Navigating complex interconnection processes at the utilities is a frequently cited issue for new generators. Time is of the essence.

I am concerned that, absent an effort to direct serious attention and sufficient resources to meet the growing pace of interconnections, delays will derail critical projects, threaten grid reliability, and impede California's clean energy progress.

Attached is a list of known wholesale generator interconnection projects in your utility service territory expected to be online by the end of 2023. While this list is subject to change, CPUC staff believes it includes a significant portion of the projects that are critical for electrical grid reliability for the summers of 2022 and 2023 (based on the

projects' target commercial operation dates). I ask that SCE commit resources to prioritize bringing these critical projects online in a timely manner, with appropriate prioritization, removing any utility-based resource barriers to interconnection.

Your May 16, 2022 report should outline SCE actions to support new resource interconnections in the near term and provide status updates on the attached list and any other relevant projects. The status update should identify any projects that SCE believes will fail to achieve initial commercial operation by the end of 2023 and detail SCE's efforts to ensure that projects seeking interconnection to serve grid reliability in 2022 and 2023 will receive SCE's best efforts to support their interconnection.

2. Take action to identify the necessary interconnection resources and process improvements to facilitate the ongoing interconnection required to support the CPUC's recent procurement orders of 14,800 MW NQC of new resources by 2026.

In parallel with committing resources to ensure that your processes and staffing plans support near term interconnection requests, we ask SCE to undertake a rigorous resource planning exercise that considers existing requests and anticipated interconnection needs through the end of 2026.

At a minimum, this planning exercise should address SCE's staff retention efforts to maintain interconnection expertise over the long-term, including by expanding staff or contracted resources, and its ability to absorb attrition and when key individuals are out of office.

3. Identify an ombudsperson(s) for CPUC's Energy Division to coordinate with on any interconnection issues or projects.

Additionally, I request that SCE identify an ombudsperson for direct communication with Energy Division staff and management. The ombudsperson should have director-level status and visibility to ensure efficient communication within SCE's interconnection team and across associated business lines.

4. Identify regulatory requests, if any, to CPUC or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that require resolution to support SCE's activities related to wholesale generator interconnections.

I request that SCE identify any needed CPUC or FERC regulatory approvals for interconnections through 2026. Please include this list in the May 16 report.

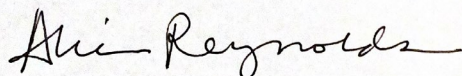
Finally, I request that SCE continue its helpful participation in the quarterly Transmission Development Forums, the first of which was on January 21, 2022, held by the CAISO in coordination with the CPUC's Energy Division. These forums provide developers, LSEs,

and other interested parties with up-to-date information about the expected online dates for transmission network upgrades that serve as dependencies for various generators. Only with accurate information about the timing of transmission network upgrades can developers and LSEs maintain visibility into the long lead time interconnection development process and have awareness of issues that may impact the expected commercial operation of projects. It is important to provide developers and LSEs with updates on a regular, quarterly cadence.

Building upon our collective success with interconnecting a record-setting number of clean resources since 2020, I am calling on SCE to redouble its efforts to support grid reliability in summers 2022 and 2023 and beyond within its unique role as a transmission owner. I also understand that SCE will need to consider this high volume of interconnections in the context of the work of ongoing utility operations, including critical wildfire safety investments.

I look forward to the May 16 report on your continued efforts.

Sincerely,



Alice Busching Reynolds
President
California Public Utilities Commission

CC:

Clifford Rechtschaffen, CPUC Commissioner, Cliff.Rechtschaffen@cpuc.ca.gov

Genevieve Shiroma, CPUC Commissioner, Genevieve.Shiroma@cpuc.ca.gov

Darcie L. Houck, CPUC Commissioner, Darcie.Houck@cpuc.ca.gov

John Reynolds, CPUC Commissioner, John.Reynolds@cpuc.ca.gov

Siva Gunda, California Energy Commissioner, Siva.Gunda@energy.ca.gov

Elliot Mainzer, California Independent System Operator, CEO, eemainzer@caiso.com

Molly Sterkel, Energy Division, merideth.sterkel@cpuc.ca.gov

Kaina Pereira, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development,
kaina.pereira@gobiz.ca.gov

David Erne, California Energy Commission, David.Erne@energy.ca.gov

Neil Millar, California Independent System Operator, NMillar@caiso.com

Attachment A

List of Projects in SCE Interconnection (By CAISO Queue # or WDAT Identifier)

Projects in SCE's Interconnection Queue (2022-2023)

Note: The data listed below reflect a snapshot of LSE-submitted data on projects and developments for current procurement efforts, with a focus on projects expected to reach commercial operation by the end of 2023. The list below may also include projects that will come online in early 2024. Project ordering does not connote priority in development. The data excludes projects that have recently reached commercial operation. Because this list is based on data provided by LSEs, some project information and other projects currently in development may be missing. SCE should contact Energy Division with any questions about this list.

Date of Data Compilation: February 14, 2022

Table 1: Projects in SCE's Interconnection Queue by Resource

Resource type	Number of Projects	MW NQC (Sept.) Estimated	Estimated Nameplate Range (MW)
Storage	43	4,162	~4,270-4,920
Solar	10	165	~600-660
Other*	7	46	~150
Total	60	4,372	~5,020-5,730

*Other includes CHP-Wasteheat, geothermal, biogas, wind, & biomass

Table 2: Projects in SCE's Interconnection Queue

Project Number	CAISO Queue Number / WDAT Identifier	CAISO Resource ID	County
1	146	DESERT SUNLIGHT PV	Riverside
2	294	DRACKER SOLAR	Riverside
3	1074	GASKELL WEST	Kern
4	1076	WILLOW SPRINGS SOLAR 3	Kern
5	1196	ARLINGTON	Riverside
6	1200	VICTORY PASS SOLAR	Riverside
7	1208	ANTELOPE SOLAR 2	Los Angeles
8	1215	RABBITBRUSH SOLAR	Kern
9	1302	SOL CATCHER BESS	Riverside
10	1313	DAGGETT SOLAR 2	San Bernardino
11	1314	DAGGETT SOLAR 3	San Bernardino
12	1319	WILLY 9	Kern
13	1324	EDSAN 1	Kern
14	1339	SILVER PEAK SOLAR	Nevada
15	1402	ATLAS SOLAR	Arizona
16	1405	ATHOS POWER PLANT	Riverside
17	1414	HIGH 5 SOLAR	San Bernardino
18	1424	EDSAN 2	Kern
19	1428	MAVERICK	Riverside
20	1493	AZALEA	Kern
21	1495	CHALAN SOLAR	Kern
22	1516	REXFORD SOLAR FARM	Tulare
23	1518	SANBORN SOLAR 2	Kern
24	1617	SEGS EXPANSION HYBRID	San Bernardino
25	1632	Sanborn ESS III	Kern
26	1642	OBERON	Riverside
27	1198 & 1526	QUARTZITE SOLAR 8, 11	Riverside
28	1204 & 1604	ARATINA SOLAR CENTER 1, 2	Kern, San Bernardino
29	1341 & 1654	YELLOW PINE 2, 3	Nevada
30	602, 1329	CATALINA/TROPICO SOLAR	Kern
31	GFID8469	TBD	Los Angeles
32	GFID854	TBD	Santa Barbara County
33	GFID8580EXP	TBD	San Bernardino
34	GFID8612	TBD	Kern
35	GFID8730	TBD	Los Angeles
36	GFID8750	TBD	San Bernardino
37	TBD	Resurgence Solar Project	San Bernardino
38	TBD	Etiwanda	San Bernardino
39	TBD	Hinson	Los Angeles
40	TBD	Springville	Tulare
41	TBD	Calpine Santa Ana III	Orange
42	TBD	Pomona Energy Storage 2 LLC	Los Angeles
43	TBD	Canyon Country ESS I, LLC	Los Angeles
44	TBD	Coachella Hills Wind Project	Riverside
45	TBD	Raceway	Kern
46	TBD	Mountain View Wind	Riverside
47	TBD	Beaumont Energy Storage	Riverside
48	TOT274 & TOT275	TBD	Inyo
49	TOT764	Sonoran West Holdings 2	Riverside
50	TOT789	TBD	Riverside
51	WDT1396 and WDT1483	Johanna Energy Center	Orange
52	WDT1399	Sheep Creek Solar Project	San Bernardino
53	WDT1454	TBD	Santa Barbara
54	WDT1490	TBD	Tulare
55	WDT1539	Painter	Santa Barbara
56	WDT1582 and WDT1583	Los Alamitos	Orange
57	WDT1636	Ortega Grid	Riverside
58	WDT1701	TBD	Ventura
59	WDT1710	TBD	Los Angeles
60	WDT1732	TBD	Tulare