December 4, 2017

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov

Re: Comments of Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. on Draft Resolution E-4893

In accordance with Rule 14.5 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the instructions accompanying draft Resolution E-4893 (Draft Resolution), the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) submits these comments on the Draft Resolution. The Draft Resolution was issued on November 1, 2017, and establishes and adopts the charter of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (Advisory Group). The Advisory Group will consist of representatives from disadvantaged communities. It will review and provide advice to the Commission and the California Energy Commission (CEC) on clean energy programs and air pollution reduction programs, and whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

IREC is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, non-profit organization working nationally to increase consumer access to sustainable energy and energy efficiency through independent fact-based policy leadership, quality workforce development and consumer empowerment. In service of our mission, IREC works to increase the adoption of policies and regulatory reforms that expand access to distributed energy resources (DERs) for all customers, including low-income customers and those residing in disadvantaged communities.

IREC commends the Commission’s and the CEC’s efforts to establish the Advisory Group, including the public comment process undertaken to date. The Advisory Group has the potential to fill a valuable role, bringing to the Commission and the CEC a perspective that has been historically underrepresented in these agencies’ proceedings. IREC is hopeful that the Advisory Group will be able to help both agencies improve their
program offerings such that they bring meaningful access to the benefits of renewable energy and other DERs to customers in disadvantaged communities.

IREC generally supports the proposed charter attached to the Draft Resolution and believes it will enable the Advisory Group to achieve its goals. In particular, IREC appreciates that the charter expressly states that Advisory Group members “should represent the diverse nature of disadvantaged communities of the state and reflect the rural and urban, cultural and ethnic, and geographic regions of the state.” IREC agrees that it is critical that the Advisory Group consist of diverse community representatives “able to demonstrate a leadership role within the community they represent” and able to hold regular meetings “to keep constituents apprised of Advisory Group developments and solicit input to bring to Advisory Group discussions.” IREC encourages the Commission and the CEC to select Advisory Group members that fully meet these important criteria to ensure effective representation and community engagement.

IREC appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments and looks forward to the establishment of the Advisory Group.

Sincerely,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

/s/ Erica S. McConnell

Erica S. McConnell

Attorneys for INTERSTATE RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL, INC.

cc:  Alice Glasner, Analyst, CPUC Energy Division
     Melicia Charles, Supervisor, Emerging Procurement Strategies, CPUC Energy Division
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is 396 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

On December 4, 2017, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as:

IREC COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION E-4893
RE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP

on the parties or their attorneys in this action as listed on the service list for Draft Resolution E-4893.

Original and Two Copies via email and hard copy to:

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Copies of the comments submitted in electronic format to:

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Edward Randolph, Director
Service Lists: R.16-02-007; R.14-07-002;
Energy Division
R.15-03-010; R.13-11-005; A.17-01-020 et al.;
California Public Utilities Commission
R.15-02-020; R.12-11-005; A.14-11-007 et al.
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BY MAIL: I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the persons at the addresses listed in the Service List and placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that the correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.
BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: I caused a copy of the
document(s) to be sent from e-mail address Zehring@smwlaw.com to the persons at the e-mail
addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the
transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on December 4, 2017, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Amy Zehring
Amy Zehring