



California Wind Energy Association

April 18, 2023

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
LOB, Room 408
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 1533 – Support

Dear Chair Garcia,

On behalf of the California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA), I am writing to convey our support of AB 1533 (Committee), which, among other things, would require the Public Utilities Commission to exclude any energy, capacity, or other attribute from the Diablo Canyon nuclear powerplant towards the state's greenhouse gas goals after August 26, 2025, among other provisions. CalWEA also urges the Commission to strengthen the bill's provision relating to the transmission approval process to meaningfully streamline that process.

CalWEA is a 23-year-old trade association. Our wind energy industry members are focused on operating and developing wind energy resources within and directly interconnected to California and off the coast of California, as well as capturing the related economic and workforce development benefits for California.

CalWEA recognizes and appreciates the good intentions behind AB 1533 in seeking to accelerate the permitting approvals necessary to enable the construction of new transmission capacity. A dramatically expanded transmission grid is critically important to achieving California's greenhouse-gas goals at least cost, and California is far behind where it should be in this area. This bill would enable the CPUC to establish a "rebuttable presumption" that would find that CAISO-planned transmission is needed, and that a duplicative need-determination process at the CPUC is therefore not necessary. That would not meaningfully streamline the process. Instead, the bill should simply eliminate the duplicative review process, recognizing that CAISO now bases its transmission planning process directly on the CPUC's Commission-approved resource portfolio that is developed after consideration, in conjunction with the Energy Commission, of land-use issues and proximity to existing and planned transmission infrastructure.

For these reasons, CalWEA supports AB 1533 but encourages a more meaningful approach to transmission approvals.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Rader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Rader
Executive Director
California Wind Energy Association
nrader@calwea.org

cc: Vice Chair Jim Patterson
Members of the Committee
