



About CEERT

The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) is a partnership of major environmental groups and clean-energy companies. Since our founding in 1990, we have designed and fought for policies that advance clean, renewable energy and climate solutions for California and the West.

CEERT's team of professional staff, active board members, expert consultants, and clean-technology and environmental affiliates carry out our work through a set of focused advocacy programs. We act as participants and intervenors before all the major governmental energy, climate, and air-quality agencies.

CEERT is urging decision-makers to forge bold new directions in grid practices, renewable procurement, and climate policies that will enable California to meet its pioneering clean-energy and greenhouse-gas reduction goals, and speed up progress toward a low-carbon electric system across the Western states.

*(upper left) CEERT Board Co-Chairs
Laura Wisland and Roby Roberts
and CEERT Executive Director V.
John White*

*(upper middle) Former Board Chair
Jonathan Weisgall and current
Co-Chair Laura Wisland*

*(upper right) Laura Wisland and
Roby Roberts*



From the Executive Director

2016 began on an optimistic note, as California legislators and regulators continued to work through the myriad of issues and challenges at the heart of California’s transition to a high-renewables, low-carbon electric grid.

CEERT’s technical grid experts, Jim Caldwell and Dr. Liz Anthony, were key players in the agreement between Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company to pursue the phased, orderly retirement of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant. CEERT’s analysis showed that it would be less expensive and more reliable to replace the plant’s output with a zero-carbon portfolio of energy efficiency, storage and a diverse mix of renewables. The decision on retiring and replacing Diablo Canyon is now before the California Public Utilities Commission, with a decision expected later in 2017.

California legislators kept California moving forward on climate and clean energy with the passage of greenhouse-gas reduction goals for 2030, and adoption of the nation’s first targets for cutting short-lived climate “super pollutants” such as methane and black carbon.

Proposals to enable deeper penetration of renewables by modernizing and integrating the Western grid prompted extensive debate and discussion among stakeholders, regulators, and legislators. CEERT helped organize a broad coalition of stakeholders and officials from California and neighboring states to work through the barriers and take advantage of the opportunities to better integrate California with its neighboring states.

The unexpected election of Donald Trump as the nation’s 45th President last November has shaken up the political landscape, but underscored the importance of California’s leadership and success in making sustained, steady progress toward the clean energy economy.

V. John White
Executive Director



CEERT Board meeting, May 4, 2016

The Year's Major Accomplishments

In 2016, CEERT:

- Encouraged the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and Imperial Irrigation District to expand resource sharing and cooperation between their systems and the statewide grid.
- Collaborated with renewable energy companies, non-governmental organizations, and funders on the Fix the Grid campaign, which has worked to ensure that progress in regional grid integration across state lines will enable California and the West to achieve our greenhouse-gas (GHG) reduction targets.
- Produced an analysis by CEERT Senior Technical Consultant Jim Caldwell and Bill Marcus of JBS Energy that helped persuade PG&E that relicensing its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant would be less economical for rate-payers than replacing the plant with a portfolio of clean-energy resources.
- Urged the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Energy Division to consider changes to CPUC and California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Renewable Portfolio Standard delivery compliance and Resource Adequacy rules that may be operating to increase imports of fossil fuels while curtailing renewables.
- Met with California Air Resources Board (CARB) Chair Mary Nichols and CARB Executive Officer Richard Corey to discuss potential GHG reduction benefits of regional grid cooperation and ways to build accurate carbon accounting and tracking into an integrated Western grid.
- Discussed with CAISO Board of Governors members Dave Olsen and Mark Ferron the need for better alignment of the CAISO's long-term transmission planning with 2030 GHG emission targets, and with economic development and new renewable energy facilities in the Central Valley and the Imperial Valley.
- Explored pathways for planning and procurement of new large-scale energy storage projects, advocated for better use of existing pumped-hydro energy storage infrastructure, and modeled the usefulness of a large compressed-air storage project in southern Utah that could enable Los Angeles to replace its current coal-fired power with GHG-free resources.
- Collaborated with and sponsored the Latino Environmental Advancement Project's *Green Raiteros* program to secure clean-energy vehicles for retired San Joaquin Valley farmworkers who offer rural residents affordable transportation to their medical, legal and other essential appointments in the Valley's major cities.
- Published a technical analysis which found that replacing 3,800 megawatts (MW) of solar facilities with 1,250 MW of Imperial Valley geothermal energy could reduce production costs, overgeneration, and the need for flexible capacity, resulting in significant savings to customers and greater GHG reductions.



CEERT's 25th Anniversary celebration

Table of Contents

3 From the Executive Director

4 The Year's Major Accomplishments

CEERT's Advocacy Programs:

6 Reforming and Modernizing the Electric Grid

7 Increasing Grid Cooperation and Resource Sharing Across the Western States

8 Expanding the Use of Renewable Energy

9 Advancing California's Pioneering Climate Policies

10 Advocating for Transmission Expansions, Bulk Storage, and Demand Response

11 Promoting Clean Energy in Southern California and the Central Valley

12 Accelerating Clean Transportation

13 Western Grid Group

14 Clean Power Champions Event

16 Financial Statements

17 Board of Directors

18 Affiliates and Staff

19 Funders and Donors



*(left) CEERT Senior Technical
Consultant Jim Caldwell*

*(right) CEERT Director of Grid
Policy Liz Anthony*



Reforming and Modernizing the Electric Grid

In line with the results of our pathbreaking and widely influential 2030 Low-Carbon Grid Study, CEERT has been working to modernize the California grid.

We are focusing on reform of operations and rules that disadvantage clean-energy resources, and better coordination between the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and other grid managers within California and in neighboring states.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Met with senior Governor's Office staff, including recently appointed CPUC Commissioners Cliff Rechtschaffen and Martha Guzman-Aceves and Deputy Cabinet Secretary Saúl Gómez, to discuss improved regional grid coordination and reform of the CAISO, the need for improved greenhouse-gas (GHG) accounting, and the need for the California Air Resources Board's GHG reduction targets to drive the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) Integrated Resource Planning process.
- Briefed the Board of Governors of the CAISO about our analytical reports on geothermal and regional wind resources in order to illustrate the benefits of a diverse portfolio.
- Made use of the results of our 2030 Low-Carbon Grid Study and follow-on analyses in our new efforts to use the hydroelectric and energy-storage assets of the California Department of Water Resources to optimize energy storage and demand response.
- Submitted our studies on Salton Sea geothermal and regional wind as input to the interagency Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0 process, and cited those studies as a key basis for our positions in the CPUC's Integrated Resource Planning proceeding.
- Encouraged the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and Imperial Irrigation District to expand resource sharing and cooperation between their systems and the CAISO grid.

*(left) Fix the Grid Campaign
Director Don Furman*

*(right) CEERT Director of
Operations John Shahabian
and Fix the Grid Campaign
Manager Jena Price*



Increasing Grid Cooperation and Resource Sharing Across the Western States

Multiple parties are holding ongoing discussions about the feasibility of an integrated interstate electric grid in the Western United States.

Such a regionally cohesive system would allow more cost-effective renewables procurement, expedite sharing of reserves among states, lessen reliance on gas- and coal-fired power, enhance California's exports of surplus solar and imports of low-cost regional wind, and deliver significant economic benefits to Western utility customers.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Helped convene key stakeholders, agencies, the Governor's office, and staff members of leading policymakers to discuss key regional grid integration issues and potential resolutions, identify gaps in understanding, and pinpoint potential areas of agreement and compromise.
- Collaborated with renewable energy companies, non-governmental organizations, and funders on the Fix the Grid campaign, which has carried out analysis, education, and strategic outreach to stakeholders and worked to ensure that progress in regional grid integration will enable California and the West to achieve our GHG reduction targets.
- Advocated with decision-makers and stakeholders for accelerated collaboration with neighboring states to help diversify our clean-energy portfolio by both resource-type and geography.
- Submitted comments with the Union of Concerned Scientists and Environmental Defense Fund on the CAISO's studies of regional integration, asking in particular for further analysis on the risks of an increase in coal dispatch.
- Pressed for including regional wind power in California's renewable energy mix to ensure a balanced generating base and help with the evening ramp-up of clean-energy resources needed to meet demand once the sun goes down.

(left) CEERT Regulatory Counsel Sara Steck Myers

(right) CEERT Director of Grid Policy Liz Anthony and Associate Regulatory Attorney Megan Myers



Expanding the Use of Renewable Energy

CEERT's advocacy at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) centers on enlarging and diversifying the state's renewable energy portfolio, limiting additional procurement of fossil-fueled power, and fairly valuing the substantial benefits that clean-energy resources bring to the grid and to society as a whole.

We have been urging the Commission to put highest emphasis on reliability and GHG reduction goals, and are seeking to maximize opportunities for new renewable procurement in the CPUC's Diablo Canyon, Integrated Resource Planning, and Renewable Portfolio Standard proceedings and ensure appropriate renewables valuation in the Resource Adequacy rulemaking.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Produced an analysis by CEERT Senior Technical Consultant Jim Caldwell and Bill Marcus of JBS Energy that helped persuade PG&E that relicensing its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant would be less economical for ratepayers than replacing the plant with a portfolio of clean energy resources. We believe the current "Joint Proposal" PG&E is promoting does not provide sufficient commitment to replacing Diablo Canyon's output with GHG-free energy, and we are advocating for a strengthened proposal.
- Strongly recommended that the CPUC undertake a coordinated implementation of Senate Bill 350 amendments that require reforming the utilities' Least Cost/Best Fit renewables evaluation criteria to include reliability considerations and GHG-reduction metrics.
- Urged the CPUC Energy Division to consider changes to CPUC and CAISO Renewable Portfolio Standard delivery compliance and Resource Adequacy rules that may be operating to increase imports of fossil fuels while curtailing renewables, and ensure that Resource Adequacy rules appropriately value wind and solar resources.
- Wrote to CPUC Commissioners objecting to 95% of the Moorpark Local Capacity Requirements procurement being met with gas-fired generation, sparking critical examination in the press.
- Intervened in the CPUC Resource Adequacy proceeding for an expansion of the definition of "flexibility" to recognize the ability of clean-energy resources to provide reliable flexible capacity.
- Urged the CPUC to provide guidance that will ensure the utilities' first Integrated Resource Plans will help achieve the state's goals of higher renewables procurement and greater GHG emission reductions.



*(left) California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols addresses a CEERT gathering
(right) Hurricane Sandy, 2012*

Advancing California's Pioneering Climate Policies

The recently enacted Senate Bill (SB) 32 requires California to slash greenhouse gases 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, as an interim goal toward achieving an 80% reduction in GHGs by 2050.

CEERT's Climate Action Program is working to strengthen the state's now monthly-aggregated GHG accounting system, sharpen the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) 2030 GHG Scoping Plan, institute GHG reductions as the focal point of the CPUC's Integrated Resource Planning, and tighten controls on methane and other potent but short-lived climate pollutants.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Met with CARB Chair Mary Nichols and CARB Executive Officer Richard Corey to discuss potential GHG reduction benefits of regional grid cooperation and ways to build accurate carbon accounting and tracking into an integrated Western grid.
- Urged senior CARB staff to adopt GHG reduction targets for each load-serving entity and for the electric sector as a whole in CARB's 2030 GHG Scoping Plan.
- Emphasized the importance of precise, transparent, real-time GHG accounting to protect against possible GHG emission increases, and the need to track and report on criteria air pollution from California's gas-fired power plants in order to ensure that emissions in low-income environmental-justice communities do not increase, or are mitigated.
- Advocated for CARB's since-adopted goal of cutting methane emissions 40% by 2030 through diverting almost all organic materials from landfills by 2025 and reducing methane pollution from California's dairies and wastewater treatment plants.
- Advocated for CARB's adoption of stricter regulations to reduce vented, leaked, and fugitive GHG emissions from the state's oil and gas industry.



Advocating for Transmission Expansions, Bulk Storage, and Demand Response

CEERT is advocating at the CPUC and the CAISO for large-scale energy storage, strengthened demand response programs, and new and upgraded transmission lines – three essential means of advancing clean energy and a low-carbon grid.

We are pressing for key transmission expansions that can increase resource sharing and open up access to new wind, solar, and geothermal areas. We are examining procurement strategies for bulk storage projects that enable the grid to balance peak loads and integrate larger amounts of clean energy. And we are advocating for greater use of demand response, which compensates utility customers for shifting their energy use to times of low demand or surplus solar generation.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Discussed with CAISO Board of Governors members Dave Olsen and Mark Ferron the need for better alignment of the CAISO's long-term transmission planning with 2030 GHG emission targets, and with economic development and new renewable energy facilities in the Central Valley and the Imperial Valley.
- Met with proponents of the crucial West of Devers transmission line in Riverside County and important transmission expansion projects in Imperial County and the Central Valley.
- Explored pathways for planning and procurement of new large-scale storage projects, advocated for better use of existing pumped-hydro storage infrastructure, and modeled the usefulness of a large compressed-air storage project in southern Utah that could enable Los Angeles to replace its current coal-fired power with GHG-free resources.
- Met with the senior management of the California Department of Water Resources on the potential alignment of the State Water Project's hydroelectric dams and water pumping load with California's need for bulk energy storage to help integrate renewable resources, manage overgeneration from solar, and implement demand response.
- Advocated vigorously before the CPUC and the CAISO to strengthen existing demand response programs while pressing for changes in DR procurement.



(left) Rey León, Executive Director of the Latino Environmental Advancement Project, Mayor of Huron, and CEERT Board member

Promoting Clean Energy in Southern California and the Central Valley

CEERT is advising the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) on strategies for replacing its coal-fired power sources with renewable energy, helping the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) develop its abundant geothermal resources, encouraging both LADWP and IID to step up their cooperation and resource sharing with the statewide grid, and working to expand renewable energy and clean transportation opportunities in the Central Valley.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Opened a dialog with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to explore greater coordination and resource sharing between LADWP and the CAISO, potential geothermal resource procurement in the Imperial Valley, and benefits from LADWP participating in the multistate Energy Imbalance Market.
- Published a technical analysis, "The Value of Salton Sea Geothermal Development in California's Carbon Constrained Future," which found that replacing 3,800 MW of solar facilities with 1,250 MW of Imperial Valley geothermal generation could reduce production costs, overgeneration, and the need for flexible capacity, resulting in significant savings to customers and greater GHG reductions.
- Worked on removing barriers to transmission expansion and renewables procurement in the Salton Sea region, and on resolving conflicts between CAISO and IID over the deliverability of exported power.
- Collaborated with and sponsored the Latino Environmental Advancement Project's *Green Raiteros* program to secure clean-energy vehicles for a ride-sharing program that offers rural residents affordable transportation to their medical, legal and other essential appointments in the Valley's major cities.
- Explored the potential of building new pumped hydro energy storage facilities that would support expanded solar development on retired and unproductive farmland in the Central Valley.



(left) CEERT Research Consultant John Shears discusses clean transportation options at the CEERT Board retreat

Accelerating Clean Transportation

Because vehicles account for nearly 40% of greenhouse-gas emissions in California, the state needs to place particular emphasis on the transportation sector in order to meet its climate goals. CEERT's Clean Transportation Program works to speed up the transition to low-carbon fuels and to support viable markets for zero-emission electric and fuel-cell vehicles.

In 2016, CEERT:

- Participated in CARB workshops in support of Low-Carbon Fuel Standard program enhancements to meet state targets under SB 32, AB 197, and the 2030 GHG Scoping Plan.
- Participated in a coalition of California-based organizations that encouraged the Canadian government to adopt a Clean Fuel Standard, which is now in development.
- Worked as a member of the Clean Cars Coalition to support CARB and the federal agencies preserving or accelerating some of the Advanced Clean Cars program targets.
- Continued to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The Program's 2016-17 Investment Plan provides funding for electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure totaling \$37 million, and \$23 million for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle technology demonstration, scale-up, and manufacturing.
- Actively participated in developing the 2016-17 Funding Plan for Low-Carbon Transportation and Fuels Investments and Air Quality Improvement Program, responsible for disbursing \$363 million in clean-transportation funding ranging from rebate incentives for zero-emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles to ride- and car-sharing projects in disadvantaged communities to pilot projects for zero-emission heavy-duty commercial vehicles.



Amanda Ormond, Western Grid Group Managing Director

Western Grid Group

Western Grid Group is a fiscally sponsored project of CEERT. In partnership with advocate colleagues, WGG shaped the proposed structure and operation of the effort to build a Western Regional System Operator (RSO). Its key messages were to build the regional framework to support the maximum amount of clean energy, ensure the new system is acceptable to diverse utilities and states, and make certain that public interest organizations have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the new organization.

In 2016, WGG:

- Ensured the SB 350 studies that evaluated benefits and costs to California of regionalizing the CAISO were robust and credible by participating in the study process and influencing the data, assumptions, and study methodology.
- Filed comments to the SB 350 studies documenting 19 categories of previously unquantified RSO benefits that could triple the amount of benefits reported to the California legislature, and be worth up to \$165 million by 2020 and more than \$500 million by 2030.
- Filed comments and shaped the outcome of the Transmission Access Charge, Resource Adequacy, and Governance initiatives.
- Successfully advocated that the Western Electricity Coordinating Council preserve a relatively open and transparent process by including diversity in Reliability Assessment Committee membership and continued financial support for NGOs and stakeholders.
- Wrote a series of eight briefing papers on the fundamentals of energy markets and market operations for a semi-technical audience, and published them on a GRID FORWARD webpage (<http://westerngrid.net/wcea/rso/>).
- Hosted three days of educational meetings and 10 webinars for Western Clean Energy Advocates organizations on a wide range of market, transmission planning and operational topics.
- With help from advocate colleagues, produced “Critique of Western Regional System Operator Assumptions and Assertions,” which evaluated and responded to factually incorrect assumptions and beliefs about the SB 350 studies and regionalization, and was distributed at a western regional commissioner forum in October.

Clean Power Champions

At our 13th annual Clean Power Champion Awards Ceremony on August 16, 2016, CEERT honored three visionary leaders who have blazed a trail to our clean-energy future.

Senator Kevin de León

Kevin de León is President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate. Senator de León authored Senate Bill 535, which required that at least 25% of cap-and-trade revenues be allocated to clean energy and advanced transportation investments in the state's poorest, most heavily polluted neighborhoods.

And in 2015, Senator de León authored Senate Bill 350, which established the most far-reaching renewable energy goals in the nation. The legislation requires California utilities to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030, and establishes an integrated planning process for the electric sector to achieve deep GHG reductions by 2030.



David Olsen

Dave Olsen helped develop some of the earliest wind, solar, geothermal, and pumped hydro projects in the world. During his tenure as president of Patagonia, the company became one of the first to get its electricity from wind and solar power.

Along with Dr. Rich Ferguson, Dave coordinated California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, which charted a roadmap for integrating renewable resources. He founded and led the Western Grid Group, a team working to create a modern electricity grid in the Western states.

In 2013, Dave was appointed to the Board of Governors of the California Independent System Operator, where he has helped shift CAISO's focus to greater reliance on zero-carbon resources and integrated transmission planning to achieve the state's climate and renewable energy goals.



Martha Guzman-Aceves

Before her recent appointment to the California Public Utilities Commission, Martha Guzman-Aceves served as Deputy Legislative Secretary for Environment, Energy, Water, and Agriculture, where her policy portfolio included climate action, renewable energy, and environmental protection.

Previously she worked with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and United Farm Workers on a range of labor, health, and environmental issues, and was a co-founder of Communities for a New California.

Martha played a central role in drafting and negotiating Senate Bill 350, which enacted the most ambitious renewable energy target in the U.S.





Dave Olsen, member of the CAISO Board of Governors



V. John White, Dave Olsen, and CEC Commissioner David Hochschild



Kevin de León, California State Senate President Pro Tempore



V. John White, Kevin de León, and CEERT Board Co-Chair Laura Wisland



Martha Guzman-Aceves, CPUC Commissioner



Mayor of Huron Rey León, former Assemblymember Manuel Pérez, Martha Guzman-Aceves, and V. John White

(left) Kimber West,
Controller



(middle) John Shahabian,
Director of Operations



(right) Heather Taylor,
Operations Assistant



2016 Financial Statements

CEERT Expenses by Program

Core Renewable Energy Advocacy	\$	905,269	49.2%
CPUC Regulatory Intervention	\$	50,877	2.8%
Short Lived Climate Pollutants	\$	46,527	2.5%
Desert Renewable Energy Planning	\$	16,000	0.9%
Regional Grid Integration	\$	253,064	13.8%
Central Valley Renewable Energy Jobs	\$	11,824	0.6%
Subtotal, CEERT Programs	\$	1,283,561	69.7%

CEERT Sponsored Projects

Western Grid Group	\$	452,957	24.6%
Latino Environmental Advancement	\$	28,274	1.5%
Low Carbon Grid Studies/NREL	\$	75,529	4.1%
Subtotal, Sponsored Projects	\$	556,760	30.3%
Total Program Expenses	\$	1,840,321	100.0%

CEERT Program and Administrative Expenses

Direct Program Expenses	\$	1,840,321	77.1%
Administrative OH and Fundraising	\$	547,421	22.9%
Total Organizational Expenses	\$	2,387,741	

CEERT Board of Directors:

(seated) Carl Zichella, Jim Walker, Jonathan Weisgall, Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Jim Caldwell

(standing) Anders Glader, Sarah Webster, Rachel Shimshak, Roby Roberts, Rey León, Mona Tierney-Lloyd, Laura Wisland, J.C. Sandberg, Parin Shah, Arthur Haubenstock



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Natural Resources Defense Council

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

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At Large

Anders Glader
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Arthur Haubenstock
8minutenergy Renewables

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
American Lung Association in California

Rey León
Latino Environmental Advancement Project

Bill Magavern
Coalition for Clean Air

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Carl Zichella
Natural Resources Defense Council

**CEERT Staff:**

(front row) Jim Caldwell, Kimber West, V. John White, Telicia Benson, Liz Anthony, Andrea York

(back row) Rich Ferguson, John Shears, Peter Stern, Sara Steck Myers, John Shahabian, Megan Myers, Lauryn Nellum, Mary Calvo, Heather Taylor

Affiliates

8minutenergy Renewables

American Clean Skies Foundation

American Wind Energy Association

American Lung Association in California

Avangrid Renewables

Berkshire Hathaway Energy

BrightSource Energy, Inc.

California Center for Sustainable Energy

Coalition for Clean Air

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National Grid

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Renewable Northwest

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Sonoma Clean Power

SunPower Corporation

Union of Concerned Scientists

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