

# Procurement Database



*California Public Utilities Commission*  
*Energy Division*  
November 18 , 2011



# Introduction

- Energy Division is creating a Supply Side Procurement Database in order to be more responsive to Commissioners inquiries and questions.
- To populate the database, Energy Division will be issuing a data request to the IOUs.



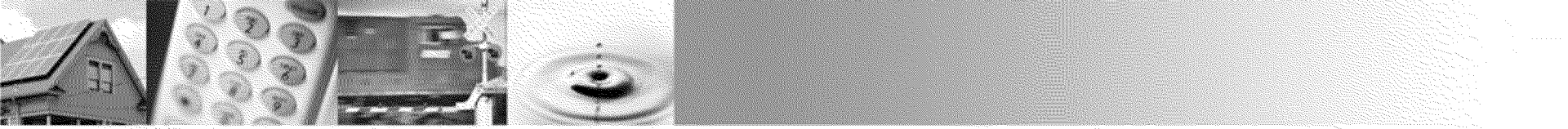
# Challenges

- Responding to Commission information requests requires significant internal staff resources to compile and assess data.
  - Can take anywhere from hours to weeks to compile information accurately, given the decentralized nature of how data and information is stored at the Commission
- Difficult to address questions comparing across resource categories (e.g. How do RPS costs compare to Conventional costs?)
  - Comparisons across resource categories/programs confounded by lack of standardization in how/where information is stored.
- Data is provided to the Energy Division with different terms, units, and inconsistent formats.
  - Costs reported in MW, MWh, kW-yrs, kW-months, etc.



# Solution

- Create a unified supply-side database
  - Includes Conventional, Renewables, and Qualifying Facilities / Combined Heat and Power
  - Contracts and facility information
  - Transmission information
- Coordinate database efforts with the Energy Commission, and California Independent System Operator
  - Comparable metrics (e.g. \$/kw-yr)
  - Use most current information from definitive sources
  - Reduce burden on the Utilities to provide information



# Enables

- Quicker response to Commission requests
  - Reduce time from weeks to days, and days to hours
- Consistent data and ability to compare and analyze
  - Across Utilities
  - Across resource types (e.g. RPS with Conventional)
  - Data available from other sources
- Establishment of a schedule for updating information, ensuring data and analyses remain current
- More robust analysis is possible.



# Utilities Concerns

The Utilities stated that:

1. The timeline is too aggressive
2. The Commission is asking for too much data
3. The purpose of the database is unclear
4. It would take too much effort to comply with this project

Each of these claims are further examined in the next four slides.



# Timeline Too Aggressive

- Staff started discussions with the utilities in July, 2011.
- Staff allocated 2 months for datasheet meetings with the Utilities, 1 month for the Utilities to review the finalized datasheet, and 1 month from issuance of the data request for the response.
  - A total of 4 months for the preliminary Utility response period
- Staff arranged timing to fall between other major reporting periods.



# Asking for Too Much

- Energy Division is only requesting the information it believes are necessary to answer the Commissioners' requests.
- Data request builds upon reports already being filed.
  - Project Development Status Report (PDSR) is a direct input to the database (filed semi-annually)
  - Combined Heat and Power / Qualifying Facilities is built upon the reporting template from the settlement (to be filed semi-annually)
  - Conventional data has been data requested twice previously with a much larger scope (2004-2009, and 2009-2010), and was provided within 6 weeks (to be filed quarterly)





# Purpose Unclear

- Staff has spent approximately 10 hours going over the purpose and usefulness of the database with each utility individually
- Database is designed to allow uniformity, comparability of resources, and to decrease staff response time to Commission requests
- Reduce staff data requests to utilities
- Enable comparisons between other agencies and encourage common units of analysis amongst agencies, reports, and Utilities



# Too Much Effort to Comply

- This effort is largely standardizing reports already filed with the Commission.
  - Aligns PDSR (Project Development Status Report), CHP/QF Template, and Conventional data with each other
- Database will reduce Utility and staff workload by eliminating the need to file duplicative information.
  - E.g. Utilities will no longer need to provide the Net Qualifying Capacity because staff will get directly from the CAISO
- Staff will make available the database infrastructure to the Utilities, providing added benefit to them.
  - Allows utilities to offer improvements, directly input data, and can speed data validation



# Conclusions

- The database project provides tangible benefit to the Commission.
- The Utilities' claim that the database is high effort for little benefit is unfounded.
- Consistent and comparable information is a direction the Commission has encouraged, and the Utilities repeatedly failed to comply with.