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Subject: Draft resolution on CEQA compliance

Last week we released a draft resolution that will establish a citation program related to Certificate of Public Convenience and Permit to Construct requirements for electric and natural gas storage facilities. Over the last several years the Commission has used its authority to establish citation programs in numerous areas, including gas safety; household good movers; charter party carriers; passenger stage corporations; maintenance and operation of power plants; slamming by telecommunications providers; and compliance with Resource Adequacy and Renewables Portfolio Standard requirements. This citation program is based on other Energy Division citation programs. It defines violations and sets a fine schedule for those violations. It will allow Commission staff to quickly resolve compliance issues related to California Environmental Quality Act requirements and project specification requirements. We believe this citation program will benefit both staff and the companies we regulate by avoiding costly, lengthy investigation proceedings.

It may seem like this runs counter to some of my efforts to make the CEQA program a little more predictable and timely, but based on other citation programs at the CPUC, I think that overall this will help make the overall processes more predictable and more rational.

For more information on approved citation programs, you can refer to the following resolutions:

Resolution E-4017 Establishing a Resource Adequacy Citation Program:
http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/60545.htm
Resolution E-4257 Establishing a Renewables Portfolio Standard Citation Program:
http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/109286.htm

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