

Valley Electric Association RIF Reevaluation Discussion Comments

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Valley Electric Association, Inc. (VEA) appreciates the opportunity to provide responses to the questions posed by the RIF Liaisons in preparation for the upcoming re-evaluation of the RIF. VEA is a small electric cooperative utility, primarily severing load in Nevada. VEA, recognizing the benefit of regional cooperation, was a first-mover in transitioning its service of its Nevada load into the CAISO as a Participating Transmission Owner (PTO) and a CAISO Load Serving Entity (LSE). Therefore, VEA benefits from being able to participate in robust discussions regarding regionalization efforts for the western energy markets.

VEA provides these brief, high level comments on the future role of the RIF.

VEA strongly supports continuation of the RIF. The RIF provides regional stakeholders a forum to discuss issues that may not be provided elsewhere, especially given the recent halt on the regionalization efforts on the ISO front. Furthermore, the forums provide a venue to connect representatives of various energy market entities and better facilitates robust discussions. Even absent an expanded CAISO footprint, regionalization exists today in the EIM design and may become a key component of California reaching a 50% RPS.

VEA supports the continuation of the RIF, supports coordination with the EIM Governing Board meetings, and encourages a flexible structure wherein the CAISO staff can support with infrastructure needs and the RIF can choose to use stakeholders to develop draft proposals or not based on what is most effective.

VEA appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.