



January 25, 2021

Nikki Emam – Regional Affairs Analyst, External Affairs,  
California Independent System Operator,  
Folsom, California.

Re: Letter of Interest for Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Regional Issues Forum – Public Interest Group Sector Liaison Seat.

Greetings Ms. Emam,

It's my pleasure to submit this letter of interest in response to the California ISO public notice to seek the vacant public interest organization (PIO) sector liaison seat on the [Western EIM Regional Issues Forum \(RIF\)](#). Enclosed with this letter, is my resume. My motivation to seek this seat stems from my decade-long work experience and engagement on regional electricity initiatives (electricity markets, multi-state and inter-utility transmission planning and grid reliability assessments) in the Western Interconnection. In my current role as Senior Market Policy Analyst with [Western Resource Advocates \(WRA\)](#), a public interest organization (PIO) in the intermountain states of the western U.S., I am engaged in the advancement of policy - design and assessment - and advocacy efforts for an expanded electricity market in western U.S. The public interest group sector liaison role on the EIM RIF aligns well with WRA's (and western public interest allies') larger goals for a future decarbonized grid that ideally encompasses a multi-state and coordinated electricity market for reliable, affordable and clean energy.

Initiated and approved in 2016, the EIM RIF serves as a truly unique and innovative stakeholder construct that provides a critical platform for all stakeholders in the West to engage on a diversity of issues that involve the EIM – the workings, governance, market design, operations and public policy issues. Keeping up with evolving regulatory, market and public policy realities, the EIM RIF has also allowed for an inclusive and robust discussion on a rich diversity of EIM related topics. The multi-sector and consensus-based operating framework of the EIM RIF aligns very closely with WRA and any public interest entity's embodiment of following guiding principles in any stakeholder-based initiative: transparency, fairness, accountability and independence of governance.

In my current role with WRA in the Regional Markets team, I undertake policy and market design analyses of regional market expansion initiatives for the WRA footprint of non-coastal western U.S. states. WRA is committed to supporting regional electricity expansion that allows for a coordinated and multi-state transfers of electricity. WRA further supports such a coordinated and centralized market for electricity to reflect the public policy goals and evolving customer needs for decarbonized sources of energy. As part of my duties, I actively participate in the California ISO regional market processes (i.e., EIM, Extended Day-Ahead Market and EIM RIF) and coalesce with public interest entities in the West. Specifically, and as a case in point, I have the pleasure of facilitating a "Regional Markets" work group that is hosted under the auspices of the Western Clean Energy Association. This work group includes a diverse membership of western PIOs (i.e. clean energy advocates, end use customer groups, and clean energy trade organizations). The work group strives through consensus to brainstorm and develop policy positions and strategies for promoting a multi-state regional electricity market in the West. The work

Arizona	Colorado - Boulder	Colorado - Denver	Nevada	New Mexico	Utah
1429 North First Street	2260 Baseline Road	1536 Wynkoop Street	550 W. Musser Street	409 E. Palace Avenue	307 West 200 South
Suite 100	Suite 200	Suite 210	Suite G	Unit 2	Suite 2000
Phoenix, AZ 85004	Boulder, CO 80302	Denver, CO 80202	Carson City, NV 89703	Santa Fe, NM 87501	Salt Lake City, UT 84101

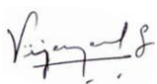
group convenes regularly to brainstorm topical issues and has as a result, often leveraged deliberations from the EIM RIF meetings which have provided valuable insights into regional market concepts and trending issues. On a number of prior occasions, deliberations or materials from the EIM RIF have also been an invaluable starting point for western PIOs to brainstorm and formulate formal policy positions.

My work prior to joining WRA - four years at Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and six years at Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) - includes experience in electricity regulation, grid planning and design of clean energy policy incentives. Relevant work duties at Oregon DOE included the engagement on regional transmission planning efforts through WECC and review of Oregon investor-owned utilities' resource plans. Specifically, I had the pleasure to represent the State of Oregon on the Western Interstate Energy Board's deliberations and review of the "California ISO – PacifiCorp EIM Proposal" (2012-2014). Time at WECC was instrumental in appreciating the nexus of a bulk power system response to a changing resource mix that included a cascade of fossil fuel retirements and a steady growth in renewable resource additions. In my role at WECC as a Sr. Policy Advisor, I was fortunate to be able to advise WECC CEO and Executive Management and translate public interest concerns and priorities into implementable WECC reliability assessment studies. The liaison role also called for my managing a two-year special project, as per directive of WECC CEO and Board, to assess the compliance impacts of Federal Clean Power Plan (111d) to the Western Interconnection. My resume further elaborates on the breadth of my knowledge and experience regarding the evolution of the EIM and regional electricity markets, federal and Western state energy policy development, and the constantly evolving advances around decarbonization and grid modernization.

If elected to serve on behalf of the public interest sector on the EIM RIF, I would embrace the valuable opportunity to learn the perspectives and priorities of my fellow sector liaisons and in turn, engage with my peers to share the views, priorities and challenges of public interest entities. I presume this role to also include the channeling of pertinent EIM and related regional market and operational issues to the sector at large and relaying back, any concerns and feedback that the RIF and formal California ISO stakeholder process seeks or is unaware of. I realize and appreciate that the public interest sector in the Western Interconnection embodies a diverse range of entities with a wide-ranging spectrum of positions regarding EIM and market expansion efforts, and decarbonization goals while balancing the perennial need for a reliable and affordable electric grid.

In closing and with the support of Western Resource Advocates, if chosen for the Public Interest Group sector liaison seat on the RIF, I look forward to the unique opportunity to serve as an ambassador for public interest allies and advocacy organizations. I look forward to a further conversation with the Public Interest and Consumer Advocates Group sector so that I can elaborate on both, my credentials and motivation to serve on the EIM RIF.

Thank you.



Vijay A Satyal PhD ([Vijay.satyal@westernresources.org](mailto:Vijay.satyal@westernresources.org); [Tel: 541-231-7473](tel:541-231-7473))