Energy & Emissions Policy Statement
for:
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In California, money, energy and environment are intertwined. Our legislation, administrations and regulators display the effects of that reality, and not always for our citizens' good. This policy statement recommends specific actions to be taken by the next California administration, in which the Lt. Governor has. key roles

I. California regulatory failures include avoidable San Bruno deaths (2010), Aliso Canyon's record gas leakage 2015, and ongoing failures of toxics regulation by DTSC and fracking-waste injection by DOGGR. In the San Bruno case, a federal NTSC investigation found both CPUC and PG&E negligent for years of poor gas-line inspection, maintenance and record keeping. Yet, no CPUC member and no PG&E gas-management executive were removed/prosecuted. Similar laxity by CPUC, DOGGR and SoCalGas was determined at Aliso Canyon, whose leakage wiped out all benefit of all California's investments in GHG reduction via wind/solar projects (CARB graph below), yet ongoing, unregulated leakage is worse.
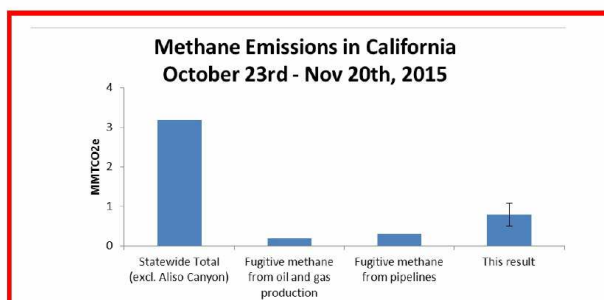

Figure 2. Methane emissions in California since the detection of the Aliso Canyon leak, October 23rd through November 20th 2015. Major assumptions about leak rate variability have been made in the construction of this graph.

Even our Water Board (SWRCB) admitted to allowing millions of gallons of water to be bottled here daily and shipped out of state during record drought – "It's revenue" said the board's head, unwisely. Our regulators need pressure to do their jobs.

The CPUC, in particular, needs reform. This has been attempted in the past, particularly by Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblyman Mike Gatto ("Mike Gatto CPUC reforms" or "Jerry Hill CPUC reforms."). Gatto's is a state Constitutional Amendment: ACA 11 of 2016. All also found at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/

An extremely important bit of work for our next administration and legislature is to determine what protections California implemented in the past after the 2005 repeal of the 1935 Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUHCA). For 70 years it protected utility customers from improper siphoning of their utility fees by any holding company making non-utility investments with customer money. Decades of lobbying Congress
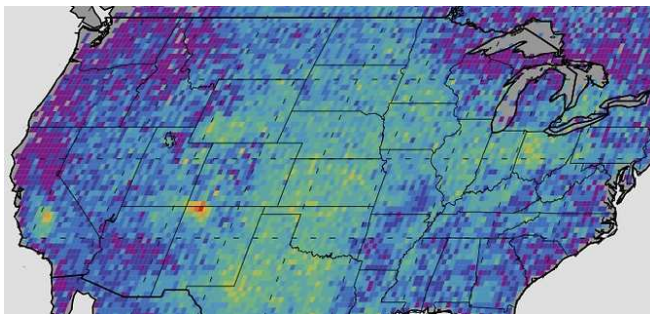
finally freed such companies from SEC scrutiny. Some states took protective measures, including legislation. What has California done & does it need to do?

II. Legislative failures center on poor education on issues for new legislators. Lobbyists have long residencies in Sacramento and can overwhelm our novice legislators with 'alternative facts'. Several legislators personally explained how they had no place to go in our Capitol to get unbiased social/scientific education. A particularly inexcusable example was passage of the bill that allowed parents discretion to not vaccinate their school children. Against professional medical advice, the bill was passed and signed, and then it caused a modest measles epidemic. California rightfully became a butt of jokes, until SB277 fixed most of our self-inflicted problem.

For energy & environmental interactions, our legislature needs some education on and study of other states which have more rational & environmental policies relating to clean energy sources (e.g., RPS) and power-grid operation (e.g., Loading Order). The legislature must also be educated to resist outside lobbying that's trying to fractionate our CAISO to allow external, polluting electricity sources to be disguised and injected into California (e.g., Berkshire Hathaway's Pacificorp mixing wind with coal power). The last legislative session fortunately didn't pass related bills proffered by Chris Holden: https://tinyurl.com/ycxtxdhg
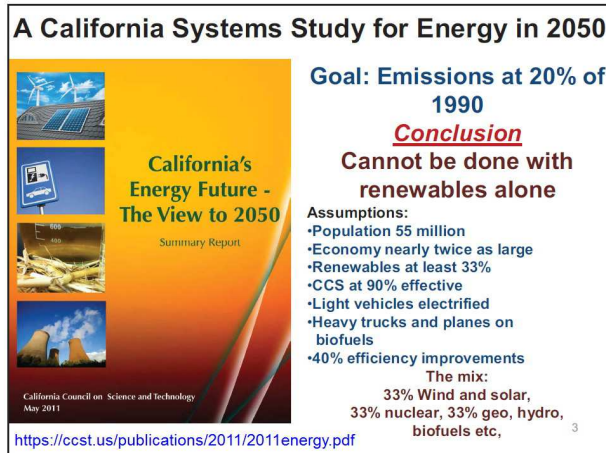
Our legislators need a dedicated, non-partisan consultancy in Sacramento, to guarantee they have the most accurate information before legislation is written and passed.

III. Energy policy in California, beyond the above, is un-environmental, largely because of the gas interests that permeate our state, even to the Governor's office. The latest statements about "50% renewables" power by a particular date illustrate the lack of science and the power of money on our officials. Here, 'renewables'' depend on gas to back them up with more energy than they generate. Worse, gas support of 'renewables' adds emissions even when wind/solar, for example, are full on. This little secret about gas plants is called "backdown mode" (see last figure below). Combined with fracking and other gas leakage now occurring in California, the gas dependence of 'renewables' has made them impotent for GHG reduction – note Bakersfield's methane "hotspot"…

The CPUC has also failed us in not supporting the truly clean sources we have: Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear stations. With both operating, we would already have met earlier emissions goals and be well on our way to meeting more stringent ones, much

as have states that have adopted "Zero Carbon Energy" standards, superior to our RPS. There is no technical or environmental reason for our nuclear stations to go off or remain idle. We have an environmental emergency worldwide. Shuttering such sources is irresponsible anywhere. Responsible, independent parties have explained this to us before (2011)…

All those elected to our next administration can bring science & fact back to decision making in Sacramento. Will they? Will we help them to?