

Consensus Questions

Adopted by the LWVC board of directors July 10, 2005

1. Values: What values should be considered in electric policy decision-making in the coming decade?
Please indicate which of the following values you consider 1) vital, 2) very important, 3) somewhat important, 4) not very important. (No more than two 1s and two 2s)

	1	2	3	4
a) Reasonable rates	___	___	___	___
b) Customer choice of provider	___	___	___	___
c) Environmental protection	___	___	___	___
d) Reliability of service	___	___	___	___
e) Transparency and efficiency of government	___	___	___	___
f) Social equity and environmental justice	___	___	___	___
g) Encouraging a strong industrial base	___	___	___	___
h) Public participation in the process	___	___	___	___
i) Other [please specify]	___	___	___	___

2. Factors for consideration: In planning for acquisition of new electric resources, what factors merit consideration?
(Same 1-4 scale, and no more than two 1s and two 2s, as above)

	1	2	3	4
a) The diversity/mix of resources	___	___	___	___
b) Impacts on greenhouse gas emissions	___	___	___	___
c) Level of support for baseload power requirements	___	___	___	___
d) Availability at times of peak power demand	___	___	___	___
e) Dispersed (<10 MW capacity) generation	___	___	___	___
f) In-state vs. out-of-state generation	___	___	___	___
g) Impacts on the transmission grid	___	___	___	___
h) Potential sites for terrorist activity	___	___	___	___
i) Life cycle costs	___	___	___	___
j) Other [please specify]	___	___	___	___

- 3) Should investor-owned and municipal utilities in the state be expected to adhere to the same standards for renewable resources development, demand-side management procurements, and reserve requirements? Should all independent Load Serving Entities be expected to adhere to the same standards?

- 4) Since sites for power generation facilities and rights-of-way corridors are part of the statewide energy planning process, can you envision a process that would ensure that land be available for future energy development?
 - a) Should land-use planning for future infrastructure development be an essential element in state energy policy?
 - b) Should there be a requirement that a pre-CEQA assessment be conducted prior to designation or banking of particular lands?
 - c) What roles should the public have in terms of regional energy planning?
 - d) What roles and responsibilities should local governments have in regional energy planning?

- 5) We would like you to consider the impacts of customer choice and direct access on electric system reliability and customer rates. Specifically:
 - a) What would you be willing to pay for customer choice?
 - b) When direct-access customers leave the regulated utility system, the remaining core customers must pick up additional embedded costs, Should departing customers be required to pay their fair share of embedded costs?
 - c) Should an additional charge be imposed on departing customers, recognizing that there could be a negative effect on the integrated system?
 - d) What conditions should be imposed on customers that have left the regulated utility system if they wish to return to service by the utility?

- 6) At present there is some debate regarding the roles of state government in planning, owning, regulating and managing the electric power system.
 - a) Given that much of the generation is now owned by out-of-state companies, what roles can and should the state play in the regulation and management of an electricity market?
 - b) What could be changed to make planning and regulation a more transparent process?
 - c) The League has supported competent regulation at the state level to meet projected state energy needs, as well as to protect health and safety and the environment. What should the state's responsibilities and jurisdiction be in terms of the siting and the rate structures of facilities not owned by the investor-owned utilities, including proposed liquefied natural gas facilities?

- 7) Would there be advantages in having a single California Energy Agency with responsibility for energy planning, policy, facility permitting, operational integrity and regulation? Please list some advantages and disadvantages. What other alternatives exist if California is to have an effective planning and regulatory process for the energy sector?

- 8) The water sector—conveyance, treatment, end-use and irrigation pumping—is California's largest consumer of electric power, and the demands of the water sector for on-peak power are expected to double over the coming decade. What specific improvements in conservation, efficiency and forecasting could be carried out by water users to foster more effective use of both our water resources and our energy resources?