



## PROPOSAL FOR “DEER ALTERNATIVE”

Throughout California’s long history as the standard bearer of energy efficiency (EE), the EE industry has relied on an ex ante framework to provide essential savings estimates and other parameters for energy efficiency measures. However, the ex ante framework in its current form no longer accomplishes the California Public Utilities Commission’s longstanding policy goals:<sup>1</sup> The value development process is not collaborative; the repository of values is not transparent and associated documentation is not easily accessible; the whole framework does not “balance the need for accurate ex ante values with the equally important need to continuously augment the portfolios with new technologies that offer promise.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Cal TF Proposal**

Cal TF is proposing a new statewide electronic Technical Reference Manual (TRM) that can host all measures and the associated documentation for each assumption and parameter in a single repository. The TRM will leverage open source platforms developed under the US department of Energy (DOE). Cal TF staff is confident that the transition to the new electronic TRM can be successfully accomplished within two years. This process would include creating workpapers to document DEER measures, reviewing POU and “third party”-developed measures, and consolidating measures to reduce unnecessary complexity. To further increase transparency and reduce cost and complexity, DOE’s open source EnergyPlus modeling software will be used to create estimates only for measures that need to be modeled.

Clear, easily applied guidelines for measure development will be finalized and used to ensure that all measures meet the same standards for rigor and accuracy. All stakeholders, including regulatory staff, will work together to build consensus for technical values, but the final TRM will be adopted by Commission decision. This initial implementation process will also lay the foundation for a materially collaborative and transparent technical update framework that California can continue to rely on as it implements the new Rolling Portfolio paradigm.

### **Support**

This recommendation is based on a thorough best practices analysis of over 20 Technical Reference Manuals currently in use across the nation.<sup>3</sup> All content, structure, and process components of this proposal reflect best practices that have led to success in other states. The change is supported by the Policy Advisory Committee of the California Technical Forum which is comprised of leaders from all key energy efficiency stakeholders in California. It was developed through the work of the California Technical Forum, with input and support from the US Department of Energy and several national labs, including LBNL, PNNL and NREL.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cal TF and Consistency with CPUC Directives on Ex Ante Values/DEER*, Cal TF at p. 1-2. Avail at: <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/53c96e16e4b003bdba4f4fee/t/54a331c6e4b03ccd29f8dc1b/1419981254762/CPUC+Directives+on+Ex+Ante+and+DEER+memorandum.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> D.12-05-015 at p. 297

<sup>3</sup> *Ex Ante Alternatives Initial “Best Practices” Findings from TRM Research*, Cal TF Staff. Avail at: [http://static1.squarespace.com/static/53c96e16e4b003bdba4f4fee/t/55cce7c5e4b01e36b698bc5d/1439492037958/Ex+Ante\\_TRM+Findings.pdf](http://static1.squarespace.com/static/53c96e16e4b003bdba4f4fee/t/55cce7c5e4b01e36b698bc5d/1439492037958/Ex+Ante_TRM+Findings.pdf)