

State of California

Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2006

To: The Commission
(Agenda Distribution List)

From: **Theresa Cho**
Chief of Staff to Commissioner Grueneich

Subject: West Coast Commissions' Joint Action Framework on Climate Change

Action: Commission vote on whether to adopt the West Coast Commissions' Joint Action Framework on Climate Change.

Discussion: In 2003, the governors of Oregon, Washington and California signed The West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative (Governors' Initiative), an agreement that outlines actions each state will take to curb greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Through the initiative, the governors directed the states to:

- Develop joint policy recommendations for activities that require regional cooperation and action
- Develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate
- Work together to achieve greenhouse gas reductions that are greater than any state could achieve on its own

In furtherance of the Governors' Initiative directive for regional cooperation, Commissioners from the Oregon, Washington and California Public Utility Commissions have developed the attached Joint Action Framework on Climate Change to formalize the Commissions' commitment to regional cooperation and information sharing on strategies to address climate change. The Framework commits the Commissions to jointly explore best practices and new technologies in conservation and demand response and renewable energy resources and low-carbon, fossil fuel-powered generation, including carbon sequestration technologies.

The Joint Framework also commits the three Commissions to explore the development and implementation of greenhouse gas emissions standards for new long-term power supplies. The CPUC is currently investigating an emissions standard in R.06-04-009 and will issue a final decision in early 2007 in compliance with SB 1368.

The Commissions have already worked jointly on issues of importance to all three states, by co-sponsoring a workshop on advanced coal and CO₂ sequestration technologies and related policies in May 2006. A second joint workshop is scheduled for December 1, 2006 and will address energy efficiency and climate change. The Joint Framework will provide a formal context for the continued cooperation among the states.

The Oregon Commission will consider adoption of the Joint Framework at its November 21, 2006 meeting and the Washington Commission will consider the Framework at its November 28, 2006 meeting.

Recommendation: To adopt the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change.