BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Oversee the Resource Adequacy Program, Consider Program Refinements, and Establish Forward Resource Adequacy Procurement Obligations.

Rulemaking 19-11-009
(Filed November 7, 2019)

MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF THE GREEN HYDROGEN COALITION

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November 9, 2020
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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I. Introduction

Pursuant to Rule 1.4(a) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Green Hydrogen Coalition (“GHC”) respectfully submits this Motion for Party Status in this proceeding.

II. Interest in this Proceeding

The GHC is a California educational non-profit organization. The GHC was formed in 2019 in recognition of the game changing potential of green hydrogen to accelerate multi-sector decarbonization to combat climate change. The GHC’s mission is to facilitate policies and practices that advance green hydrogen production and use in all sectors of the economy where it will accelerate a carbon-free energy future. Our sponsors include both renewable electricity users and providers and those in the renewable natural gas space.

Hydrogen is a mainstream commodity that can be utilized in many applications across many sectors of the economy, including use as a long-duration energy storage solution and displacing the use of fossil fuels in electricity generation. Hydrogen is widely used today for
many industrial processes, however more than 98% of the hydrogen used today is produced from fossil fuels, which produce greenhouse gas emissions (“GHGs”).

Green hydrogen, in contrast, is commercially produced today from renewable electricity by electrolysis, from biogas by steam reforming, and from biomass through thermal conversion. Green hydrogen is a clean and safe energy carrier that can be used as a fuel for electricity production, as well as a means for multi-day and seasonal renewable energy storage. Green hydrogen, once scaled, has the potential to be lower cost than hydrogen made from fossil fuels. Production and use of green hydrogen is currently being pursued globally to decarbonize a range of sectors and meet climate goals.

GHC believes green hydrogen has a critical role to play in California’s electric resource procurement future due to its use as both a drop-in fuel replacement for natural gas and a means to achieve multi-day and seasonal dispatchable renewable energy storage. According to the 2019-2020 IRPs, wind and solar are some of the lowest cost energy sources at the margin today, and as the penetration of this resources increases, electric generation systems will become increasingly more difficult to manage and maintain reliability, particularly during the spring, fall and winter when there will be multi-day and ultimately seasonal shortages and surpluses of energy. Using green hydrogen as a form of multi-day and seasonal renewable energy storage can contribute to the 9.8 GW of new energy storage resources needed by 2030 as identified in the 2019-2020 IRP. 2 Multi-day and seasonal energy storage will be required to maintain reliability and provide grid support as renewable energy penetration increases. 3

Given the opportunity to support critical reliability needs, GHC believes it can offer valuable insights into the state of the green hydrogen market and the relevant technologies, costs, and operational considerations. GHC plans to work collaboratively with stakeholders within Track 3.B of this proceeding to help develop changes and refinements to the resource adequacy structure that will allow California to maintain reliability amid rapidly increasing penetration of

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2 2019-2020 Electric Resource Portfolios to Inform Integrated Resource Plans and Transmission Planning (Decision 20-03-028) March 26, 2020 https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M331/K772/331772681.PDF
renewable generation and increasingly severe weather events. GHC intends to participate in the November 2020 workshop on draft Track 3.B proposals and subsequent comment periods and workshops.

As a non-profit aligned with the decarbonization goals of California and focused on the critical role of green hydrogen in ensuring grid reliability, the GHC has a direct interest in this proceeding that cannot be represented by any other party.

The GHC respectfully requests that this Motion for Party Status be granted. The GHC intends to participate in this proceeding by monitoring issues and contribute, where appropriate, to the resolution of issues reasonably pertinent to the issues already presented. The GHC’s participation will be within the scope of this proceeding, will not delay the procedural schedule, and will not prejudice any other party.

III. Notice

The GHC requests that service of notices, orders and other correspondence in this proceeding be addressed to:

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Email: regulatory@ghcoalition.org

IV. Conclusion

GHC respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion for Party Status. If it is granted party status, the GHC intends to participate actively in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,
Date: November 9, 2020