Delivering Clean Energy at Speed and Scale: An Integrated Approach to Clean Energy, Biodiversity, and Tribal Stewardship in California

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Summary

California is a leader in conserving nature to protect water and air quality, biodiversity, and access to the outdoors as well as deploying clean energy to reduce climate pollution, but that leadership now faces a defining test. The state needs to maintain an unprecedented pace and scale of clean energy and electric transmission project deployment in ways that keep electricity affordable for families and businesses, minimize regulatory delays, and also achieve its objectives to protect California's natural and cultural resources. Without coordinated reforms that complement the progress already underway, projects will face costly delays that drive up electricity rates, slow climate progress, and leave these critical statutory objectives in conflict rather than advancing together.

The stakes for consumers are high. Project delays don't just postpone climate solutions—they increase costs at every stage. When clean energy projects don't anticipate potential conflicts with communities, tribal resources, or the state's land conservation objectives early in the permitting process, developers face expensive redesigns, extended timelines, and legal challenges. These costs are ultimately passed on to electricity customers. By addressing potential conflicts early through better planning and coordination, California can deliver clean energy infrastructure faster and more affordably.

To better understand how to accelerate project delivery while avoiding costly delays, Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) convened a project team and spoke with experts in policy, government, clean energy development, and philanthropy to identify solutions at the intersection of these critical state policy goals.

This discussion paper proposes solutions that fill important gaps in California's existing regulatory and policy frameworks. The desired outcomes are building critical clean energy infrastructure at the speed and scale required to meet climate goals, delivering these projects at lower cost to electricity customers, limiting impacts to biodiversity and natural lands, and ensuring early, meaningful engagement with communities and California Native American Tribes. As clean energy and transmission projects rely on public lands to meet the state's ambitious climate targets, the likelihood of encountering culturally significant tribal resources rises—making early tribal engagement not just respectful, but essential to avoiding impacts to tribal resources and costly project delays and redesigns.

When clean energy infrastructure planners and developers factor community needs, tribal resources, and conservation priorities into the earliest stages of project planning—before routes are finalized and before significant capital is committed—they can accelerate project delivery, avoid costly mid-stream corrections, and reduce conflicts that lead to

delays. This front-end investment in coordination pays dividends in faster permitting, lower project costs, and more affordable electricity for all Californians.

Background

For more than two decades, California has led the fight against climate change and has spearheaded the global clean energy transition, advancing ambitious policies to plan and site clean energy and electric transmission while protecting natural and cultural resources and delivering local community benefits.

Biodiversity Leadership

California is a leader in conservation of wildlife and wildlands. The state is one of the most biologically diverse places in the world due to its unique combination of geography and climate. Over 6,500 native plant species, 1,000 native vertebrate species and 30,000 insect species can be found in California and many of these species exist nowhere else in the world. But California's amazing biodiversity is at risk due to habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, pollution, invasive species, and direct exploitation of species such as overfishing and poaching.

The state of California adopted a goal of protecting 30% of its lands and waters by 2030 as part of a global biodiversity protection initiative known as 30x30. California has quickly become a global leader in this effort, and as of 2025, a remarkable 26.1% of the state's lands and 21.9% of the state's coastal waters have been protected on the road to achieving the state's 30x30 goal. In 2023 Governor Newsom signed State Senate Bill 337, codifying California's 30x30 ambitions through broadly supported state legislation. The state has already begun to invest hundreds of millions in publicly approved bond funds and other funds to achieve this statutory goal.

Tribal Partnership and Stewardship

Indigenous leadership is essential to climate action and biodiversity conservation. California has strengthened its commitments to work with Native American Tribes on priorities such as land-back and co-management initiatives, government-to-government consultation, and public infrastructure investments. These commitments are incorporated by reference into Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-8-23, which provides for the creation of a multi-agency "Strike Team" to streamline state funding, permitting, and delivery of energy, transportation, and environmental remediation projects, among others. Historically, many Tribal Nations have been excluded from energy planning and

infrastructure development decisions that have compromised cultural resources, dispossessed communities of land and water rights, and limited economic opportunity.

California's Native American Tribes have unmatched expertise and generations of experience managing the state's rich and diverse natural resources. A foundational principle in the state's 30x30 conservation effort is elevating tribal conservation priorities and tribal stewardship. Building on this Traditional Ecological Knowledge, California is pioneering new models of co-stewardship and advancing tribal land return projects across diverse geographies and tribal homelands.

The Current Challenge

California is advancing clean energy, biodiversity conservation, and tribal conservation priorities and stewardship amid climbing energy demand, rising electricity costs, and worsening climate impacts—a complex challenge that requires balancing multiple urgent priorities while keeping electricity affordable for consumers. The state also needs to continue its transition to a clean energy future against a backdrop of unprecedented federal action to undermine clean energy.

Despite the federal headwinds, California continues to step forward and lead the clean energy transition. In this critical moment, California must leverage every available tool to accelerate clean energy infrastructure delivery with greater clarity and predictability, while simultaneously reducing permitting timelines, controlling costs for consumers, protecting biodiversity, and supporting tribal conservation priorities and stewardship.

To better understand how the state can strengthen its approach, RLF led a research effort to identify barriers, best practices, and solutions at the intersection of clean energy development, electric transmission expansion, protection of biodiversity and cultural resources, and meaningful engagement with California Native American Tribes in energy infrastructure decision-making.

Through extensive conversations[1] with more than two-dozen policymakers, subject matter experts, tribal representatives, and funders, held between February and June 2025, we have identified three key challenges and opportunities to engage in building critical clean energy infrastructure faster and smarter:

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[1] The research included conversations with more than two-dozen experts in state government, clean energy development, philanthropy, tribal governments, non-governmental entities, and consultants with expertise in climate, conservation or clean energy.

1. **California lacks a unified framework and implementation plan to proactively align clean energy and land conservation mandates across state agencies.** Without a plan, the state loses a key opportunity to anticipate and efficiently resolve cross-agency policy conflicts early, leading to expensive mid-stream changes that slow project delivery, and increase costs to ratepayers.
2. **California Native American Tribes lack resources and capacity for engagement in clean energy infrastructure processes.** Tribal perspectives need to be represented and heard in clean energy infrastructure planning efforts, but inadequate financial resources can be a barrier to participation. Without sufficient Tribal engagement and consultation, Tribal priorities can be overlooked completely or considered only tangentially and after other considerations have taken priority in planning and development processes.
3. **California needs to advance critical conversations about land use and tribal priorities earlier in transmission planning.** This gap represents a missed opportunity to address costly potential conflicts early, build trust, support tribal energy sovereignty, and identify mutually agreeable solutions.

California has responded forcefully to the biodiversity and climate crises with ambitious plans for land and water protection and a clean energy future.

The next phase of California's leadership is not about choosing between these priorities, but about aligning them early enough to move faster and more affordably, because at the scale of clean energy project deployment needed, it's not feasible to solve challenges project-by-project alone.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

1. **Establishing a Unified Framework and Implementation Plan to Align Policies Across State Agencies**

While a leader in planning for both clean energy development and natural resource protection, California lacks a unified framework and implementation plan across state agencies to align clean energy and transmission deployment, land protection, and cultural resource protection goals. Currently, planning to achieve these goals is done by several different agencies.

Our expert conversations suggest that while state agency leadership coordinates and communicates at the top-level, the state lacks a directive for agency staff to work together to ***anticipate***, ***identify***, and ***remove*** regulatory and policy barriers and points of friction that prevent greater integration of cross-sector goals. Additionally, ensuring new or updated cross-agency processes and policies are regularly tracked and iterated on as needed would improve consistent coordination and streamline project planning and implementation.

Without such a plan focused at the working level, the state loses a key opportunity to get ahead of and resolve cross-agency policy conflicts, instead deferring them to the project permitting stage, when time is short and solutions are harder to craft.

Interviewees identified the land-use screens for electric system planning as a successful example of cross-agency policy collaboration to get ahead of potential conflicts. Experts complimented the state on the process and outcomes of the 2023 update to the screens, noting that it is an increasingly critical tool in determining appropriate project siting to inform least-regrets, long-term infrastructure planning in California.

Throughout the interviews, many experts also identified the need for the state to look beyond **planning processes** (such as Integrated Resource Planning (IRP), Senate Bill (SB) 100 reports, landscape-level planning) and invest in **implementation actions** to yield a clean energy and transmission buildout that aligns with the state's goals for natural and cultural resource conservation and meaningful Tribal engagement. If done effectively and in authentic partnership with Tribal Nations, this can help reduce costly delays and expensive late-stage project modifications.

Experts further suggest that while the Energy Working Group within the Infrastructure Strike Team and the Tracking Energy Development (TED) Task Force are working well to problem solve at the individual project level, ***the state still lacks an entity charged with working systemically at the intersection of land use and energy policies to minimize conflict and delay in advance of the project permitting stage and to help the state achieve 30x30 goals.*** A more comprehensive approach would accelerate project delivery and reduce costs.

To address these challenges and improve project speed and affordability, research and conversations with experts highlighted several recommendations:

- The Governor and/or state legislators could direct the following agencies with authority over energy, transmission, natural resource, and cultural resource protection to form a staff-level task force to develop a cross-agency action plan that respects tribal sovereignty, and advances the pace and scale of clean energy

infrastructure deployment needed to achieve the state's climate goals while controlling costs for consumers and limiting impacts to natural and cultural resources:

    - California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Conservation, Department of Water Resources, and California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Affairs.

- The Governor and/or state legislators could direct the task force to:
    - Review and assess the **planning processes** within their respective agencies for opportunities to improve coordination and update policies to promote planning of critical clean energy infrastructure that avoids and minimizes impacts on priority natural lands and cultural resources, as a strategy to accelerate project delivery, reduce permitting timelines, and control costs for electricity customers.
    - Review and assess the **project siting and permitting processes** within their respective agencies for opportunities to improve coordination and update policies to promote planning of critical clean energy infrastructure that avoids and minimizes impacts on priority natural lands and cultural resources, as a strategy to accelerate project delivery, reduce permitting timelines, and control costs for electricity customers.
    - Establish an online platform for sharing the state's energy resource projections and planned transmission projects with the public. An online spatial data hub could include the state's energy resource planning projections (e.g., IRP portfolios), California Independent System Operator (CAISO) transmission zones, and other relevant energy and transmission planning data. Making this data publicly accessible would support other state agencies, Tribal Nations, local governments, regional planning agencies, and non-governmental organizations by giving these entities a clearer understanding of where the state is planning for large amounts of new clean energy resources and related infrastructure and enabling more coordinated, proactive energy and land use planning.
- Experts interviewed identified the following planning functions and policies as important to update or develop in the scope of a cross-agency task force:
    - Policies that may constrain, disincentivize, or slow development of clean energy projects on farmland retiring for groundwater sustainability and/or naturally occurring selenium contamination, including Williamson Act and the Land Evaluation & Site Assessment (LESA) Model.

- Policies that can promote more consistent and predictable mitigation measures for the development of clean energy projects on lands with lower habitat value and lower cultural resource values, including the use of programmatic permitting approaches (e.g., Program Environmental Impact Reports (PEIRs)), Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs), Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) and regional advanced mitigation planning.
    - Senate Bill 254, Becker, Chapter 119, Statutes of 2025, directs the California Energy Commission to prepare one or more PEIRs for clean infrastructure projects to accelerate the review of clean and renewable energy projects. CDFW could work with the California Energy Commission (CEC) during PEIR development to prepare a conservation strategy for candidate, rare and declining, and threatened and endangered species, which could help protect California's biodiversity and streamline infrastructure project delivery.
    - Through expert conversations, the following regions were identified as areas where investment in PEIRs or other programmatic permitting approaches would benefit advancing land conservation and clean energy project delivery:
        - Solar and battery storage in the San Joaquin Valley; and
        - Wind and geothermal energy resources in Modoc and Lassen Counties.
- Improving coordination and data sharing between planning to achieve the state's 30x30 protection goal and transmission projects needed to achieve 100% clean energy, specifically with regard to landscapes that are the location of new landscape-scale conservation investments or wildlife corridors and crossings in California.

- Expert conversations suggested that philanthropy could fund a term-limited position at CNRA to manage development of the plan with the goal of completing it before new political leadership starts in 2027.
- The legislature should ensure current energy and natural resource agency staff positions are fully funded to support timely planning and permitting of clean energy infrastructure, and consider the development of an oversight position for energy projects that are on an expedited timeline to accommodate tax credit deadlines.

CASE STUDY

Darden Clean Energy Project: Strategic Siting Accelerates Approval

The Darden Clean Energy Project, a 1,150-megawatt solar and battery storage project in Fresno County, demonstrates how strategic siting can accelerate clean energy development. The project encompasses 9,500 acres of agricultural land no longer able to support crop production, making it a low-conflict location from both conservation and community perspectives. Approved in June 2025, Darden became the first project permitted under the California Energy Commission's Opt-In Certification program.

The project includes a community benefits plan committing the developer to invest more than $2 million over the next decade in Fresno County community-based initiatives, building local support. By siting on degraded agricultural lands with low conservation value and proactively addressing community needs, the project avoided the conflicts and delays that plague projects in ecologically sensitive areas. This case illustrates how front-end planning and strategic site selection can deliver clean energy faster.

2. Support Tribal Communities with Additional Resources and Capacity for Engagement Through a Circuit Rider Model

Tribes are often navigating overlapping demands on time and staff, which can make sustained engagement in clean energy infrastructure planning challenging. Recognizing the breadth of Tribal responsibilities and the value of their contributions underscores the importance of designing processes, and resourcing them, in ways that support meaningful, government-to-government participation.

To address this challenge, research and conversations with stakeholders recommended establishing a cohort of Native professionals (circuit riders) with specific expertise in Tribal law, history, culture, and energy and land use policy who can support Tribal communities by providing consistent, hands-on, and on-site engagement in processes associated with clean energy infrastructure buildout.

This additional capacity will allow for tribal concerns to be elevated earlier in the project development timeline thereby maximizing opportunities to avoid harm to cultural resources and incorporate tribal perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge into energy and land use planning efforts. This capacity will also provide something of an equalizing function whereby Tribes with limited resources can be provided with trusted expertise and connectivity that well-resourced Tribes can afford to hire in-house. The

circuit rider model has a track record of success in California Native American communities in a variety of conservation-related contexts, implemented by both state and federal agencies.

CASE STUDY

Chuckwalla National Monument: The Need for Place-Based Energy Planning and Problem-Solving

The recent establishment of the Chuckwalla National Monument and the associated Inter-Tribal Commission in Riverside and Imperial Counties demonstrates the kind of success that can be achieved when interested parties meet directly to problem solve and compromise.

A perceived conflict presented challenges to monument designation efforts in 2023, putting at risk needed support for protecting the area's cultural and natural resource values and creating a path for Tribal Co-Stewardship.

Through collaboration and compromise, agreements were crafted that created more certainty for solar energy and transmission projects, minimized impacts to cultural resources, and established a commitment to conduct ethnographic studies on any lands that would be impacted by development in the future.

While no party got everything they wanted, everyone involved was satisfied enough to support the deal, paving the way for a historic national monument designation. For other conservation proposals that are pending, support forTribal capacity and access to experts who can help navigate potential conflict with transmission and renewable energy projects much earlier in the process is critical. This important work will ideally be paired with the policy recommendations highlighted above to maximize positive outcomes.

3. Improving Electric Transmission Planning Through Advancing Critical Conversations about Land Use and Tribal Priorities

Background: Who is Responsible for Transmission?

California's electric transmission system is planned and managed by multiple entities, including state agencies, balancing authorities, and transmission owners (such as utilities or independent companies). Because responsibilities are distributed across these entities,

coordination is essential. Clarifying how these roles and responsibilities intersect can help identify opportunities to improve planning processes and ensure that land use and tribal priorities are addressed earlier and more effectively.

- The **California Independent System Operator** (CAISO) is a non-profit entity that oversees transmission planning, manages the flow of energy across high-voltage transmission, and maintains the reliability of the grid[2].
- The **California Public Utilities Commission** (CPUC) is a state agency that approves permits for construction of high-voltage transmission lines (above 50 kiloVolts) proposed by transmission owners (such as Investor-Owned Utilities) and independent transmission developers. The CPUC also leads long-term energy resource planning that informs CAISO's annual transmission plan.
- The **California Energy Commission** (CEC) is a state agency that develops the statewide electric demand forecast, generates land use and environmental data to inform planning, and has the authority to designate transmission corridors (Senate Bill 1059).
- **Transmission owners** build, own, operate and maintain transmission infrastructure. These entities can be utilities or independent companies.

Improving Planning to Expand Transmission Capacity

A major expansion of the electric transmission grid is necessary to meet California's climate goals. Without it, the state will not be able to move newly generated renewable energy to where it is needed to serve growing load and achieve the state's 100% clean electricity goals, potentially delaying climate progress and forcing reliance on more expensive energy sources.

Yet, transmission expansion is historically slow, often taking over a decade for the development of new projects. As the state seeks new approaches to reduce the time it takes to develop new transmission, interviewees noted that early identification of issues or barriers is a critically important strategy to the success of long-lead time infrastructure investment decisions.

Interviewees observed that the state has made significant progress in recent years improving transmission planning coordination across responsible agencies and entities, but that further process improvements are needed to accelerate development, reduce costs, better coordinate with 30x30 planning and create earlier opportunities for

[2] CAISO serves 80% of California and a small portion of Nevada. The remaining 20% is served by other balancing authorities.

meaningful engagement with California Native American Tribes, as a means of early identification of issues allowing time to craft mutually beneficial solutions.

Several experts observed that the regulatory approach to transmission planning and identifying transmission need relies heavily on energy and grid resource optimization and power flow models, and the route selection process could be supplemented with information regarding environmental values and cultural resources to avoid conflicts, delays, and potential cost overruns.

Our conversations indicate that some California Native American Tribes and community interest groups have sought more opportunities for engagement in the selection of a transmission project sponsor in the CAISO's competitive solicitation process. Competitive solicitation is the process through which CAISO selects a developer to finance, build, and own a high-voltage transmission project; this process is bound by CAISO's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-approved tariff. CAISO has initiated a process to seek more direct engagement with Tribes in the transmission planning process and is developing a Tribal Engagement Policy to ensure regular opportunities for exchange of information with Tribes.

The state has a powerful opportunity to build trust and strengthen long-term partnerships with California Native American Tribes by engaging Tribal governments much earlier in transmission planning. When Tribes are meaningfully involved from the outset, as sovereigns with deep place-based knowledge, cultural responsibilities, and strategic energy priorities, planning processes become more durable, efficient, and aligned with the realities on the ground. Without early, collaborative engagement, challenges tend to surface much later during project permitting, after years have passed and the space for mutually beneficial solutions has narrowed. Centering tribal leadership and expertise at the front end is not only respectful of sovereignty; it is essential to building a transmission system that works for everyone.

Implementation of the FERC's new transmission rule, Order No. 1920, offers a clear opportunity to improve how CAISO engages with California Native American Tribes in long-term transmission planning. With Order No. 1920, FERC requires each transmission planning region to initiate long-term, multi-value scenario-based regional transmission planning. In long term planning, transmission planners must consider "tribal laws and regulations" and "tribal policy goals," amongst other factors. In December 2025, CAISO filed a tariff amendment to comply with Order No. 1920, which noted that CAISO has initiated a process to build considerations of Tribal policies into its transmission planning process. This process will complement the CAISO's broader effort to develop a Tribal Engagement Policy.

To address these challenges and accelerate affordable project delivery, research and conversations with interviewees highlighted several recommendations:

- CAISO could increase capacity for tribal engagement through hiring dedicated tribal affairs staff positions to establish early, ongoing, and consistent engagement with California Native American Tribes in the annual transmission planning process, including project identification and competitive solicitation, which can help identify both potential opportunities and conflicts before significant resources are committed and reduce the risk of costly late-stage changes. Other non-governmental entities, such as utilities and private companies, have tribal affairs personnel.
- CAISO could incorporate criteria specific to tribal engagement and lands protected for sensitive conservation or cultural resource values into the competitive solicitation phase of the transmission planning process. This would incentivize interested project sponsors to conduct outreach earlier and prioritize routes that minimize conflicts to support faster project delivery. The current CAISO tariff requires a confidential process and prescribes specific selection factors, so new criteria would require changes to the CAISO tariff, as well as FERC approval of those changes.
- CAISO could add "experience with Tribal engagement" to its board selection policy, under public expertise (page 3 of 9).
- CAISO could work with State agencies and stakeholders to consider new methods of sharing data associated with the draft transmission plan to reach a broader audience. Audiences that are experts in factors related to local land use policies and siting feasibility noted in interviews that the presentation of proposed transmission solutions in the draft transmission plan is challenging to understand and provide feedback on. Maps of proposed transmission solutions are presented as single-line diagrams, which often condense large geographic areas into small figures and leave out geographic markers that can orient the reader to the area under consideration. Improving how this information is shared to a broader audience will advance critical conversations about route feasibility, which can help to avoid delays later in project development. CAISO could consider new formats for static maps, as well as interactive web mapping capabilities, building on existing platforms, such as the Points of Interconnection Heatmap.
- The Governor or Legislature could direct the CEC to prepare a Program EIR or designate a Transmission Corridor for one or more clean energy transmission projects larger than 230kV. A Program EIR for high-voltage electrical transmission could have several benefits to achieving California's mandates, including standardizing and expediting environmental review, supporting informed

decision-making in transmission planning and permitting, and initiating early Tribal engagement and public engagement. Interviewees pointed to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's Transmission Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as an example.

- The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-BIZ)'s Transmission Infrastructure Accelerator could establish community engagement principles for eligible clean energy transmission projects. Senate Bill 254, Becker, Chapter 119, Statutes of 2025, establishes the Transmission Infrastructure Accelerator within GO-Biz to accelerate the development and deployment of eligible clean energy transmission projects. As GO-Biz begins to shape the Accelerator and evaluates opportunities to speed development of eligible projects, they should consider developing a framework for public engagement for eligible transmission projects, similar to the work led by the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority (link).
- California's energy and natural resource agencies should increase data sharing to minimize conflicts between wildlife corridors and crossings and critical clean energy infrastructure. Several interviewees observed that conflicts between critical energy infrastructure (e.g., generation, transmission) and conservation investments to achieve 30x30 (e.g., wildlife corridors and crossings) are increasing. Natural resource agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Natural Resources Agency, could share best available data with CAISO, CEC, and CPUC, representing priority conservation areas, priority connectivity areas, and areas of planned or existing wildlife crossing infrastructure, to inform generation and transmission planning and permitting.

CASE STUDY

Coyote Valley: Where Conservation Meets Clean Energy Infrastructure

In Santa Clara County, the Coyote Valley is a critical wildlife linkage between the Santa Cruz and Diablo mountain ranges. Assembly Bill 948 designated the Coyote Valley Program Area as having statewide significance for its ecological, agricultural, and climate-resilience values. Over the past five years, conservation organizations invested over $120 million to protect 1,500 acres and restore functional wildlife connectivity, including planned wildlife crossings across Highway 101. Coyote Valley has become a model for California's 30x30 protection strategy.

Two electricity infrastructure projects now proposed within this conservation area reveal both the challenges and opportunities for alignment. The Power Santa Clara Valley

Project, a transmission project approved by CAISO in its 2021-2022 Transmission Plan and recently approved by the CPUC in March 2026, originally proposed a High Voltage Direct Current terminal in an area essential to the wildlife linkage. Successful negotiation relocated the terminal to the existing PG&E Metcalf facility, significantly reducing wildlife impacts—demonstrating how early engagement can resolve conflicts without delaying critical infrastructure.

In contrast, the Jewelflower battery energy storage project, proposed by AES, is sited in the wildlife linkage area near conserved lands and planned crossings. Since permitting has not yet begun, opportunity remains to avoid conflict between 30x30 protection and clean energy goals. These cases underscore the need for better sharing of wildlife connectivity data with energy developers and system planners to prevent costly conflicts.

Conclusion

California's leadership in climate action and biodiversity protection is at an inflection point. The state needs to speed and scale clean energy and electric transmission projects, while minimizing costs to electricity customers, maintaining reliability, achieving 30x30, and ensuring early, meaningful engagement with California Native American Tribes to minimize impact to tribal cultural and sensitive natural resources and respect Tribal Sovereignty.

Without coordinated reforms, these objectives risk coming into conflict rather than advancing together.

Findings from this research underscore a growing consensus: solving challenges project-by-project will not be enough to overcome the hurdles ahead. Instead, systemic solutions that address barriers and conflicts proactively—during planning processes and before project developers commit resources—can accelerate clean energy development, reduce costs to consumers, and are essential to achieving California's climate, conservation, and cultural resource protection goals together.