

July 29, 2025

Clean Energy Siting Coordinating Council
cleanenergy@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Cypress Creek Comments on 2025 Annual Legislative Report Draft Recommendations

To Whom it May Concern:

Cypress Creek Renewables (Cypress Creek) appreciates the Council's efforts to identify opportunities to improve siting and permitting of clean energy projects in Washington and is grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2025 draft report to the legislature. Cypress Creek is a leading solar and storage company which develops, owns, and operates transmission and community scale solar and storage projects across the United States. Cypress Creek has several late-stage transmission scale assets in Washington State.

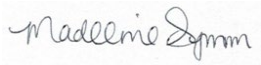
Broadly, the most impactful recommendations will be those that directly address key constraints to the timely development of clean energy resources (e.g., limited transmission capacity, tribal opposition). We recommend that creation of additional state, local or interagency process around clean energy siting be avoided if possible.

- We agree that long-term funding for Tribal project review would be very helpful.
- Implementation of SEPA categorical exemptions for utility transmission upgrade projects utilizing high-performance conductors would be very helpful. It should be noted that this would not apply to BPA, which is completing 50% or more of the transmission upgrades but would be beneficial for other utilities.
- Assessment of lands available for energy development would not be *unhelpful*. However, in the past, programmatic analysis of this nature has not been widely utilized or successful in driving development in identified areas.
- Support for development options that do not require transmission connections is helpful in concept, but further analysis may find that there is limited opportunity for this work.
 - Most of the utility-scale generation is in eastern Washington, but most of the load is in Western Washington.
 - This recommendation may be most helpful for BESS projects sited in western Washington or for new large load customers in eastern Washington co-located with renewable energy resources.

- Creation of a state transmission authority may be more impactful than development of siting and permitting tools for transmission.
- Engagement with tribes on options for SEPA categorical exemptions could be helpful, particularly for transmission.
- Supporting local government plans for clean energy could be helpful. An incentive, preferably, for rural counties to ensure zoning is supportive of renewables may be more helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Madeline Symm", is positioned above the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Madeline Symm, Director, Government Affairs