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**Tom Karier**  
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Washington

February 5, 2013

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Charlie Black, Power Planning Division Director

**SUBJECT:** Primer on Power System Capacity

A key theme that has emerged from development of the Sixth Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment is the need for the Council to expand its emphasis on assessing regional power system capacity and flexibility, in addition to its efforts on planning to meet regional energy needs.

One of the challenges for addressing power system capacity and flexibility is the lack of a shared understanding of basic concepts and common terminology for discussing the issues. Thus, it appears useful to begin building a conceptual framework for addressing capacity and flexibility topics, including for the upcoming Seventh Power Plan.

To begin this process, at the Council meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, John Fazio and I will present a brief primer on power system capacity. This primer will be at a similar level of discussion as presentations that were made on greenhouse gas emissions last October and on power system flexibility at the Council meeting in January.