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**Contact:** Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California  
Cell: 916-893-8494

## **California Energy Commission Adopts First-of-its-Kind LED Lighting Efficiency Standards**

SACRAMENTO – The California Energy Commission voted unanimously today to adopt regulations that set efficiency standards for light bulbs that use light emitting diodes (LED).

Incandescent light bulbs—which rely on tungsten filaments and have been the most common bulb in the U.S. for many decades—require a lot more energy to remain lit than do LED bulbs. California law already requires a phase out of incandescent bulbs by 2018. LED lights are becoming the standard bulb to replace the old incandescent.

The regulation adopted today addresses general service LED bulbs and bulbs that are two-inch diameter and smaller. With the new standard consumers are assured that the LED bulbs they buy are as energy efficient as practical. Additionally, the new rule sets a color quality standard, which will produce a light that is more similar to natural lighting than what is typical in current LED lights.

Industry opponents of the color quality requirement argued that it would increase the cost of lighting. However, the Commission noted that some products already meet the color quality requirement at an affordable price.

The new regulations will take effect by 2018. Consumers will find new LED lighting that meets the new standard on store shelves as early as next year.

The standard will prevent the construction of one 500-megawatt power plant, which will avoid 10.3 million metric tons of climate pollution being emitted or the equivalent of the emissions of about 170,000 automobiles. Over the first 13 years of the regulation, it will save consumers \$4 billion in electricity costs.

### **Statement from Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California:**

“This new lighting regulation will make sure everyone has a chance to buy very efficient lights that have a color spectrum that is easier on the eyes.

“We’ll be able to buy longer-lasting, more comfortable, highly efficient lights. Over the long term, consumers will save money while the lights save energy. Electricity needs are cut and so is pollution.”

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 380,000 members and supporters statewide.*