

**DOCKETED**

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# 2024 Report of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

April 16, 2025

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## Purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

The purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), pursuant to Section 400(g) of the California Public Utilities Code, is to advise the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, also known as Senate Bill (SB) 350, in disadvantaged communities. The DACAG will review and advise the CPUC and CEC on policies and programs designed to benefit disadvantaged communities and effectively reach low- income households, small businesses, and hard-to-reach customers (including rural and tribal communities) within disadvantaged communities. Specifically, the DACAG will provide advice on programs related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation electrification, distributed generation and clean energy research and development programs and determine whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

*- Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Charter*

## 2024 DACAG Members

The DACAG members represent many of the communities that make up California's richly diverse population, including urban and rural, cultural, and ethnic, and geographic diversity as well as a diversity of subject matter expertise. The following members served during 2024.

- Fred Beihn
- Abimael Chavez-Hernandez\*
- Stephanie Chen
- Senait Forthal\*
- Jana Ganion \*
- Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton (Vice Chair)
- Sahara D. Huazano\*
- Chelsea Kirk\*
- Elena Krieger
- Roger Lin \*
- Adriano Martinez\*
- Román Partida-López (Chair)
- Andres Ramirez\*

- Sarah Sharpe (Secretary)\*
- Curtis Silvers

\*Denotes partial year served, due to term expirations and new appointments.

## Background

In early 2018, the CPUC and the CEC jointly approved members of the DACAG that consists of representatives of disadvantaged communities who provide advice about state programs proposed to achieve clean energy and pollution reduction. The creation of the DACAG fulfills a requirement in SB 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015.

The DACAG's work is guided by its Equity Framework, adopted in 2018 as one of the DACAG's first formal actions. The Equity Framework was updated by the DACAG in 2024 (Appendix A).

The Framework defines disadvantaged communities for purposes of the DACAG's scope as including:

- Disadvantaged communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen,
- Tribal lands,
- Census tracts with median incomes at or below 80% of area median income or state median income; and
- Households with incomes less than 80% of area median income (AMI).

This definition aligns with the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan, initially adopted by the CPUC in 2019 and most recently updated it in 2022, and the CEC's Inclusion Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Initiative, established by the CEC in 2019 which is now further developed with their Justice Access Equity Diversity Inclusion (JAEDI) Framework in 2023.

The Equity Framework highlights the following priorities regarding climate and clean energy programs to guide the DACAG's work and focus:

- Health and Safety
- Access and Education
- Financial Benefits
- Economic Development
- Consumer Protection

Both the CPUC and CEC designate lead commissioners to be the primary points of contact for the DACAG at the Commissioner level. During the 2024 period, the CEC's lead commissioners were Patricia Monahan and Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo, and the CPUC's lead commissioners were Darcie Houck and Karen Douglas.

## 2024 Priorities

Every year, the DACAG adopts priority areas that the agencies are working on to help narrow the scope of the group's focus. For 2024, the following were priority areas (Listed SMEs are inclusive of different time periods in 2024):

1. **Affordability**  
SMEs: Stephanie Chen, Chelsea Kirk, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez, Senait Forthal, Andres Ramirez, Roger Lin
2. **Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen**  
SMEs: Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Stephanie Chen, Chelsea Kirk, Sarah Sharpe
3. **Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC)**  
SMEs: Román Partida-López, Senait Forthal, Roger Lin
4. **Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources)**  
SMEs: Stephanie Chen, Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Senait Forthal, Roger Lin
5. **Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband)**  
SMEs: Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Roger Lin
6. **Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation**  
SMEs: Román Partida-López, Sarah Sharpe, Senait Forthal, Andres Ramirez
7. **Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation**  
SMEs: Curtis Silvers, Julia Hatton, Fred Beihn, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez
8. **Workforce Training and Development**  
SMEs: Fred Beihn, Julia Hatton, Curtis Silvers, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez

Below is a summary of how many DACAG monthly public meeting and separate Subject Matter Expert meetings were held (SME meetings only included 1-3 DACAG members; a summary of minutes from the DACAG monthly public meetings is included as Appendix B to this Report):

Priority Area	SME Meetings	DACAG Meeting Items
Affordability.	2	10
Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen.	8	5

Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC).	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources).	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband).	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation.	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation.	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
Workforce Training and Development.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## Summaries of DACAG Actions or Recommendations Related to Priority Areas

### Support for Petition for Rulemaking to Integrate Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs) and Social Costs into Resource Planning and Investment Decision-Making (Letter submitted March 8, 2024)

The CEC denied the petition to initiate a rulemaking but granted the request to initiate a transparent process to determine methodologies to integrate NEBs and social costs into the CEC's resource planning, processes, and decision-making. The CEC issued an Order Instituting Informational Proceeding, 24-OIIP- 03, to integrate non-energy benefits ("NEBs") and social costs (collectively "Non-Energy Impacts" or "NEIs") into energy planning and investment decisions ("NEI OIIP").

The letter is included in Appendix C and contains DACAG's support and recommendations. Updated Equity Framework -integration into CPUC/CEC

#### Decision-making

The DACAG provided recommendations and explored options for how the updated Equity Framework could be more integrated into the decision-making of both agencies.

The updated Framework is included as Appendix

#### A. Governor Newsom's Executive Order (EO) N-

#### 5-24:

The DACAG submitted a letter to the CPUC and CEC leadership, Governor Newsom and

California Legislature on December 9, 2024, expressing our concerns about the potential impacts of the response to this EO. The DACAG members share the Governor's concerns regarding electric rate affordability and responsible stewardship of ratepayer dollars. However, we're concerned about the possible unintended impacts of this EO on the individuals and communities the DACAG is bound by Charter to prioritize. The EO has the potential to impact programs specifically targeted towards and benefiting disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities, CPUC environmental and social justice communities, and CEC Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JAEDI) communities, working against both the State's equity and climate goals.

The DACAG requested:

- that a process for public feedback and engagement be incorporated into the program analyses conducted pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-5-24;
- that CPUC and CEC ratepayer programs designed for, targeting, and benefiting disadvantaged communities be prioritized for preservation in recognition of the broad range of both energy and societal benefits they provide; and
- that the DACAG Framework be utilized to inform decision-making regarding program efficacy and benefits.

The letter is included in Appendix C.



## Appendices

- Appendix A – Updated DACAG Equity Framework**
- Appendix B – Summary of DACAG Meeting Minutes**
- Appendix C - Letters**

# Appendix A

# CA DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP (DACAG) EQUITY FRAMEWORK

## *2024 Update*

### Table of Contents

Background
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Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations

### Background

California Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, called for the formation of a statewide Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), consisting of members either from or representing disadvantaged communities, to advise the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Its purpose is to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. A Charter was first approved in 2017 (later updated in 2020), and the DACAG held its first meeting in April of 2018.

That same year, the founding members of the DACAG developed an Equity Framework to ensure that equity was placed front-and-center when considering any climate investment/intervention administered by the CEC or CPUC. This 2024 document updates that Framework to reflect six years of learning and guidance through the DACAG process.

### Guiding Principles

The following principles, as outlined in the [DACAG Charter](#), guide the DACAG's advisory function:

1. Increase *access* to clean energy technologies for disadvantaged communities
2. Maintain or enhance the *affordability* of energy service in disadvantaged communities by considering potential rate impacts of any proposed program
3. Increase the *benefits* of clean energy programs in disadvantaged communities (e.g., by supporting growth in local employment and small business)

development, as well as other non-energy benefits, including reducing pollutants and health risks).

## **Purpose**

In alignment with those Principles, this Framework serves several purposes:

- To guide and focus the DACAG as it engages in discussing and commenting on proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC
- To guide agency staff and Commissioners as they determine how to embed and center equity within their efforts
- To prioritize funding and resources for the individuals and communities in California most impacted by climate change, recognizing that they have been underinvested
- To guide proceedings and decision-making processes, particularly those lacking the engagement of individuals and communities most impacted
- To guide agency staff and Commissioners on DACAG's general position on specific equity-related considerations, including:
  - Non-Energy Benefits
  - Affordability
  - Access, Outreach, and Education
  - Community Engagement
  - Health and Safety
  - Financial Benefits and Economic Development
  - Workforce Development
  - Consumer Protection
  - Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability

If there is a need for additional, more specific feedback beyond the guidance this Framework provides, staff may meet with DACAG Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for their individual perspectives, or bring the topic to the full DACAG for further input and discussion. To support accountability, the DACAG requests the opportunity to learn from staff when and how this Framework and the DACAG's overall guidance are applied, and any relevant outcomes.

## **Definitions**

### *Disadvantaged Communities*

The term "disadvantaged" as applied to individuals and communities has an inherently negative connotation that ignores the strengths, assets, resources, and resilience of those most impacted by climate change. The DACAG has received and agrees with the significant public comment on the harms associated with the utilization of this term

“disadvantaged” which is used in statute to describe this advisory body: Public Utilities Code Section 400(g) states that the agencies shall “establish a disadvantaged community advisory group.” The DACAG is named as such in Section 1.1 of its Charter, and may consider changing its formal name with a revision of the Charter. Until that time, it will continue to be referred to as the DACAG, while encouraging the use of more accurate terminology when it comes to individuals and communities who have been underserved and disinvested. Examples of preferred language include “*priority populations*” or communities, as used by the [CA Air Resources Board](#) (CARB), or “*environmental and social justice (ESJ) communities*”, as established in the CPUC’s [ESJ Action Plan](#), or “*justice communities*”, as defined in the CEC’s [Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#). It’s also important to recognize the diversity of experiences and perspectives within these communities, despite any of these categorizations.

With that said, the DACAG aligns with the [CEC’s Energy Equity Indicators](#) tool and uses the following definition of “disadvantaged” (including community residents, workers, and businesses) in its work:

- CalEnviroScreen, as defined by CalEPA,
- Tribal Lands,
- Census tracts where area median income is less than 80% of state median income
- Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

The DACAG also recognizes and supports the utilization of the definition identified in the CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan:

- “Disadvantaged Communities,” defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen, along with those that score within the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden, but which do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score,
- All Tribal lands,
- Low-income households (household incomes below 80% of the area median income), and
- Low-income census tracts (census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80% of area or state median income).

### *Equity*

The DACAG recognizes the importance of defining equity to ensure a shared understanding and foundation for all stakeholders involved. We acknowledge that there are many working definitions for equity; however, given that our engagement is primarily focused on energy- related policies and programs, we will focus on

defining Energy Equity in alignment with the CEC's [JAEDI](#) Framework:

- “Energy Equity recognizes the historical and cumulative burdens of the energy system borne by Tribes and Justice Communities and by Black, Brown, and Native people in particular. To eliminate these disparities, energy equity centers the voices of Tribes and Justice Communities in energy planning and decision-making and ensures the fair distribution of clean energy benefits and ownership. Energy Equity includes multiple dimensions; the four key dimensions to consider are:
  - **Recognitional Equity:** Recognitional equity aims to identify the communities that have been harmed by the energy system and deserve a larger share of benefits and investments in the future.
  - **Procedural Equity:** Procedural equity aims to implement inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in policies, programs, projects, and operations. Decisions should be informed by those who will be affected by the decisions while recognizing historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics.
  - **Distributional Equity:** Tribes and Justice Communities have not received the complete suite of resources that ensure community success, especially those with the highest need. Resources for the energy system, including funding allocations, must be distributed strategically to those communities with the highest need first and at a level that will adequately address needs. Distributional equity creates opportunities for people and communities to participate in the energy system supply/value chain, operations, service, and ownership and minimizes potential harm.<sup>1</sup>
  - **Restorative Equity:** Restorative equity aims to remedy past harms from the energy system and prevent future harms from occurring.”<sup>2</sup>

Given the disproportionate environmental and economic impacts of climate change on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the DACAG also offers the following definition of Racial Equity:

- Racial Equity is realized when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.<sup>3</sup>

### **Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations**

The following topics are of particular importance when prioritizing equity and centering priority communities in the development, implementation, and impacts of programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Each topic

includes foundational guidance and considerations for agency staff, decisionmakers, and other stakeholders.

### **1. *Non-energy benefits (NEBs)***

NEBs represent the array of diverse impacts of energy programs and projects beyond the generation, conservation, and transportation of energy. These include improved health, safety, and comfort to individuals, as well as NEBs that “accrue to society at large,” including local job creation, increased community resilience, improved air quality, and other environmental benefits, such as reduced water use and water quality improvements. Because the failure to consider these latter issues harms society at large, they are also often referred to as social costs. It is imperative to adequately value (either quantitatively or qualitatively) these benefits and costs and integrate them into all resource procurement and investment decisions in all energy programs. Consideration of NEBs and social costs must drive decision-making to avoid disproportionate impacts and maximize community benefits; indeed, California’s [SB 100](#) directs the CEC to “tak[e] into full consideration the economic and environmental costs and benefits of renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.” Many of the Guidance items in this Framework can be considered non-energy benefits or social costs.

### **2. *Affordability***

The affordability of energy resources is a significant equity issue. Advancements in clean energy and climate infrastructure cannot come at the expense of low-income ratepayers and priority communities; this is an unacceptable tradeoff. As the CPUC recognizes, Californians “need affordable utility services to ensure health, safety, and participation in society,” and offers an [Affordability Ratio Calculator](#) for measuring the affordability of essential utility services.

Energy resources are a basic need and must be clean, affordable, *and* accessible to all; we cannot accept tragic tradeoffs that deepen inequity.

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<sup>1</sup> Distributional equity also encompasses the reduction of disproportionate harms and environmental health burdens of the existing energy system.

<sup>2</sup> CEC [Justice Access Equity Diversity Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#), page A-3. February 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Curren, Ryan, Julie Nelson, Dwayne S. Marsh, Simran Noor, and Nora Liu. 2016. “[Racial Equity Action Plans: A How-to Manual](#),” page 4. Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. University of California, Berkeley.

### **3. Access, Outreach, and Education**

In order to benefit from climate investments and programs, priority communities need equitable access to them. Providing that access includes removing barriers to participation (i.e., making participation easy); providing and prioritizing targeted, culturally-relevant outreach; offering solutions and interventions *with and for* these communities that address local needs and interests; meeting people where they are; and providing clear, relevant, transparent, and convenient information. Best practices can include things like providing information and services in-language, including American Sign Language (ASL), and through trusted messengers (including paid, local residents); minimizing eligibility requirements and the burden of proof; offering low-or-no-cost services; streamlining multi-lingual, multi-modal application processes across programs; providing information in multiple modalities, including ADA-accessible modalities, and outside of working hours; and offering food, childcare, and/or stipends, as well as access measures such as ASL interpretation, closed captioning, and/or ADA-accessible documents when workshops are required. The [\*SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-Income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities\*](#) addresses this topic in detail.

Trusted community-based organizations (CBOs) and educational institutions rooted in priority communities can and should play a significant role in providing access, outreach, and education. Meaningful engagement with these organizations and lifting up their leadership is important, as is funding, training, and other resources to allow them to be effective, build capacity, and be competitive in the market. Marketing, outreach, and education should be appropriately funded and compensated, and additional considerations should be made for outreach to underserved and hard-to-reach populations, which is often more costly.

Finally, priority communities are the experts on their own needs and experiences. While education about available resources may be necessary, knowledge about the impacts of climate change in their daily lives or on the solutions needed are often embedded within the communities themselves. *See also: Community Engagement.*

### **4. Community Engagement**

Community engagement, participation, and leadership are critical to ensure equitable development of programs and policies. While the DACAG can provide guidance and perspectives, community engagement should extend well beyond the DACAG. There are three helpful mantras to remember:

- “Nothing about us without us” - Priority communities should be centered and



included in conversations and decisions that involve or impact them.

- “Equity in, equity out” - Processes, programs, and decisions that center equity will result in equitable outcomes, and the reverse is also true.
- Ask: “Who’s most impacted?” - To avoid unintended consequences and ensure that the right individuals and communities are engaged, start by asking who’s most impacted? Who stands to benefit and who might be harmed by any given decision?

Due to the State’s focus on equitable engagement, priority communities are being approached more often, and at times, may be overwhelmed with the many engagement requests. At times, these requests come late in the process with little time for review and meaningful engagement. To avoid putting such pressure on communities, and to ensure authentic and meaningful engagement, agency staff must look to engage with communities early and often, while building community capacity and expertise if needed. Agencies should also be clear on the type of engagement requested. The [Spectrum for Public Participation](#) identifies various levels of engagement, from providing information to empowering communities. Agency staff should be clear with the community on the type of engagement they are looking for, how the engagement is relevant to the community and its interests, if and how their feedback will be incorporated, and how decisions will be made. The engaged parties should be compensated for their time and expertise and a feedback loop should be planned in advance to let communities know where their feedback went and what the impact was. Finally, communities should have the opportunity to lead on solutions and program implementation when those programs impact them directly.

*See also: Access, Outreach, and Education.*

## **5. Health and Safety**

Climate change directly threatens the health and safety of individuals and communities, and environmental and social justice communities are hit first and worst. Investments that perpetuate the use of fossil fuels and rely on carbon combustion continue to worsen climate change and have direct, negative human health and safety impacts, threatening the State’s goal of achieving a zero-carbon economy. Appropriately-designed climate and energy policies and programs have the potential to address and mitigate the disproportionate public health impacts of climate change on priority communities and to optimize the health, well-being, energy resiliency, and safety of California’s most vulnerable people. Public health impacts should be identified and evaluated in program design and investment, and health should be considered and valued as a non-energy benefit of climate policies, investments, and programs. Doing so can build resiliency; reduce climate-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths; reduce climate-related healthcare costs; and advance State climate and air quality goals.

## **6. Financial Benefits and Economic Development**

Investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and other climate investments should benefit priority communities directly, providing financial benefits, incentives, and cost savings, maximizing affordability and minimizing rate impacts on those communities. Considerations should also be made to support local, small, BIPOC, and people of underrepresented genders- owned businesses, allowing them to grow and offer sustainable, local employment. In addition, renters often face barriers to accessing funding opportunities due to their status as non-owners, and so special consideration should be given to support their ability to access programs and resources.

For example, 2016's CA [Assembly Bill 1550](#) directed the CA Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish the following *minimum* funding allocations of California Climate Investments:

- "At least 25 percent of funds must be allocated toward disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within low-income communities or benefiting low-income households
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within and benefiting low-income communities, or low-income households, that are outside of a CalEPA-defined DAC but within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community"

Similarly, [AB 523](#) (Reyes, 2017, sunsetted in 2023 but extended through CPUC decision D. 23- 04-042 beyond AB 523 timeline) required *at least* 25% of the CEC's available Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funds for clean energy projects be located in and benefit disadvantaged communities, with an additional 10% to low-income households. [AB 126](#), (Reyes, 2023) requires at least 50% of the moneys appropriated to the program on programs and projects that directly benefit or serve residents of disadvantaged and low-income communities and low-income Californians.

From an equity perspective, public funding should activate resources for the most in-need and most impacted communities. Locating investments within priority communities that don't benefit those communities is counter to the principles of the DACAG and this Framework.

## **7. Workforce Development**

Workforce development refers both to the training and preparation of workers (supply-side), and to the career opportunities available to those workers (demand-side).

Climate policies and programs can invest in both by:

- Promoting and funding workforce training pathways and wraparound services, including pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other industry-recognized training programs, to high-quality careers in the construction, climate infrastructure, and clean energy industries
- Providing opportunities to train the next generation of climate leaders and workers for the clean energy economy
- Setting and tracking hiring goals (local, regional, and targeted hire) across career levels for low-income and underrepresented populations who've been locked out of prosperity, to increase access to and representation in the climate workforce
- Including labor standards, such as prevailing wage and industry-appropriate standards beyond wages (benefits, etc.), in publicly-funded programs and contracts Prioritizing careers that offer economic mobility and advancement pathways, not just one-off jobs
- Recognizing that utilizing a high-quality, well-compensated workforce ensures quality work, which advances CA's climate goals.
- Prioritize workforce programs that are accessible to underserved communities, emphasizing the need for programs with reduced time commitments and offer services tailored to trainees with limited English proficiency.
- Advocate for workforce programs that specifically support re-entry populations (justice- impacted/formerly incarcerated individuals).

The CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB) offers a strong framework for creating and sustaining quality jobs and careers, referred to as the [High Road](#). Both the CPUC and CEC hold Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the CWDB to align their shared climate goals with workforce development and economic justice:

- [CEC MOU](#)
- [CPUC MOU](#)

Finally, the University of California Berkeley Labor Center's report, [A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030](#), lays out the connection between climate and careers, and how to advance job quality through climate action.

## **8. Consumer Protection**

Climate-related policies and programs should not create incentives for predatory lending or exploitation of communities for financial gain. Programs must have adequate consumer protection measures, disclosures, and accountability measures to ensure that financially- vulnerable customers are not taken advantage of or otherwise compromised.

The CPUC, during the COVID-19 outbreak, established various [consumer protection](#)

provisions to protect consumers from potential financial harms during difficult economic times. Agencies and staff should seek to ensure that the type of protections provided during this time are also considered and embedded into energy programs and policies.

### ***9. Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability***

Policies and programs must establish metrics to measure their success, gauge efficacy, learn and improve, and determine whether they are delivering equitable outcomes. Metrics should go beyond the investment, program, or resource itself; beyond geographic location; and beyond the intended beneficiary. Evaluation should consider the results of the investment, who contributed, who was impacted and to what extent, and any unintended consequences. Metrics can and should include properly-valued NEBs.

In addition, clear equity requirements, incentives, and metrics should be included from the beginning - again, "put equity in, get equity out" - whether it's in program design, or in a solicitation or scoring process. Progress towards goals should be measured throughout implementation and not just reported upon conclusion. Data collection should be transparent, easily accessible, and up to date. For the sake of accountability, outcomes should be reported and the significance of meeting, not meeting, or exceeding those outcomes should be clear from the outset.

# Appendix B

## Summary of DACAG Meeting Minutes

**Dates Covered: [January 2024 – December 2024]**

**For DACAG related information (docket, event page, etc.), see DACAG webpage: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/campaigns/equity-and-diversity/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group-dacag>**

**For Notice, meeting materials, presentations and supplementary information, see the docket:**

**=<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=16-OIR-06>**

DACAG MEETING ON 1-19-2024

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **CPUC Presentation on Building Decarbonization Proceeding (R.19-01-011): CPUC staff will present on the building decarbonization proceeding and solicit feedback and discussion from the DACAG on next steps in the proceeding.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Building Decarbonization Proceeding, Sebastian Sarria, Senior Regulatory Analyst Building Decarbonization and Renewable Gas Section Energy Division, California Public Utilities Commission

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=253983&DocumentContentId=89289>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **CEC Presentation on Gas Research and Development Program: CEC staff will present energy-related gas research initiatives for the proposed draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Gas Research & Development Budget Plan followed by DACAG feedback and discussion.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Gas R&D Program Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget Plan, Daphne Molin, Supervisor, CEC Gas R&D Division

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=253996&DocumentContentId=89302>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 7**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Joint CEC & CPUC Letter on Recommendations for 2024 DACAG Priorities, and Additional CPUC Recommendations Regarding 2024 Priorities, for DACAG discussion and possible adoption.**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action taken.
- Excerpt of discussion
  - Recommendation to adopt the [joint list](#), with these modifications:
    - Add Affordability to the list as #8
    - Add Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources to #4 in parentheses.
    - Add Smart Grids and Broadband to #5
- Votes:
  - Member who made motion: Julia Hatton
  - Member who seconded the motion: Andres Ramirez
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 6 Members Aye, 5 members did not vote (absent)

### **Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 8**

Member Update: No update.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion

## **DACAG MEETING ON 2-16-2024**

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Assembly Bill 2127 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment. CEC staff will present findings from the Assembly Bill 2127 Second Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment report and related efforts.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Assembly Bill 2127 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment, Adam Davis, Air Pollution Specialist Fuels and Transportation Division, California Energy Commission

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254482&DocumentContentId=89882>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- There was discussion, no action taken.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC). CPUC staff will present on the CPUC's Proposed Decision on Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Strategic Goals.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Proposed Decision Adopting Strategic Goals (R.19-10-005), Fredric Beck, Senior Analyst, Energy Division, Climate and Equity Initiatives Section, CA Public Utilities Commission

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254470&DocumentContentId=89875>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action was taken

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

Presentation/Discussion Title: 2021-2022 and [2022-2023 DACAG Annual Reports: DACAG discussion and possible approval of one or more of the reports.](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action was taken.
- Excerpt of discussion
  - Deep gratitude to Adrian for his work on these reports!
- Votes:
  - Member who made motion: Curtis Silvers
  - Member who seconded the motion: Fred Beihn
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 7 Members Aye, 3 members did not vote (absent)

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas**

**ITEM 8, Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the [2024 priority areas](#). Members may also discuss who may serve as a subject matter expert. Agency staff may present on CEC and CPUC proceedings and activities aligned with the 2024 priorities. Agency staff may present on CEC and CPUC proceedings and activities aligned with the 2024 priorities.**

1. Affordability Andres, Roger, Stephanie



2. Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen. Elena, Roman, Stephanie
3. Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC) Roger, Roman
4. Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources) Elena, Roger, Roman, Stephanie
5. Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband) Roger, Roman
6. Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation Andres, Roman
  - i. Update: Adrian presented at the CEC Business Planning Meeting.
7. Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation Curtis, Fred, Julia
8. Workforce Training and Development Curtis, Fred, Julia

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Excerpt from minutes re this item:
  - DACAG Discussion:
    - Discussed options for discussing the non-energy benefits questions from today's public comments, including setting up a separate, noticed meeting in advance, or moving our March meeting to 3/8 (Julia Hatton would facilitate and Stephanie Chen would act as Secretary); pending logistical confirmation/room availability from CEC and CPUC. Recommended setting a standing agenda item that includes a call for future meeting topics, from both DACAG members and the public.
    - Identified subject matter experts for each 2024 priority area (above); reviewed alignment with CPUC proceedings.

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 9**

Member Update: No update.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion.

**DACAG MEETING ON 3-8-2024**

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Non-Energy Benefits and Societal Costs

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action was taken
- Votes: **Motion and vote to approve comment letter on Non-Energy Benefits and Social Costs**
  - Member who made motion: Stephanie Chen
  - Member who seconded the motion: Andres Ramirez
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 7 Members Aye (only 7 members at the time)

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Membership

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion unknown; no action was taken

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas**

- Affordability
- Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen.
- Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC). Discussion of public comment by Armin Garcia re: cash matching requirements for EPIC and impacts on projects in DACs.
- Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources).
- Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband).
- Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation. Events in LA Harbor area recently around vehicle electrification, Commissioner Monahan attended.
- Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation.
- Workforce Training and Development.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion unknown; no action was taken.

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 9**

Member Update: No update

DACAG Member Discussion: No discussion

**DACAG MEETING ON 4-19-2024**

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Member Recognition. Recognizing departing members of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group: Adrian Martinez, Andres Ramirez, and Roger Lin.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - Commissioner Douglas and Commissioner Gallardo provided remarks and appreciation in recognition of their service. Commissioner Gallardo also provided comments on behalf of Commissioner Monahan, and Ed Modalvsky provided comments on behalf of Commissioner Houck.
  - DACAG members and agency staff shared their appreciation and gratitude for the departing members, all three of which are founding members from 2018.
  - Adrian and Andres shared remarks.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Technical Assistance Solicitation. CEC staff will present draft technical assistance funding concepts being developed to support communities seeking state and federal zero-emission transportation infrastructure funding.

Presentation/Discussion Title: ZEV Infrastructure Technical Assistance, Mark Wenzel, CEC Fuels and Transportation Division

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=255724&DocumentContentId=91554>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric staff will present their draft Community Engagement Plans that will inform the development of their Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessments to be submitted to the CPUC.

Presentation/Discussion Title: Community Engagement Plan Briefing for Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, Brian D'Agostino, Vice President of Wildfire & Climate Science, SDGE; Lily Backer, Clean Energy Regulatory Strategy Manager, SDG&E and SoCalGas; Max Beller, Climate Adaptation Advisor, SDG&E; Brianna Haugen, Climate Adaptation & Resilience Specialist, SDG&E; Geoffrey Danker, Public Policy & Planning, SoCalGas -

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=255802&DocumentContentId=91650>

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action was not taken.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Officers. Discussion and possible election or re-election of the Chair, Vice Chair, and/or Secretary.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10**

- 1) Affordability
- 2) Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen.
  - a. SME Meeting with [who and when] on CEC Building Energy Action Plan
- 3) Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC)
- 4) Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources)
- 5) Reference to CEC Rulemaking Proceeding on Non Energy Benefits and Social Costs 23-OIR-01 Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband)
- 6) Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation
- 7) Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation
  - a. SME Meeting on CEC Equity Criteria for Prioritization of Authorities Having Jurisdiction - Outreach and Engagement – [who and when?]
- 8) Workforce Training and Development

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11**

Member Update: Commissioner Matt Baker was appointed to the Low-Income Oversight Board, taking Commissioner Shiroma's former position.

**DACAG MEETING ON 5-17-2024**

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **New DACAG Members. Introduction and meet and greet with any newly appointed DACAG members.**

DACAG Member Discussion: New DACAG members were welcomed, and introductions were made of all members and Commissioners present.

- Abimael Chavez-Hernandez, West Modesto Community Collaborative, Stanislaus County
- Chelsea Kirk, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, Southeast Los Angeles
- Sarah Sharpe, Central California Asthma Collaborative, San Joaquin Valley

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI). CEC Fuels and Transportation Division staff to present and solicit feedback on the proposed 2024 Update to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Deployment Plan.**

[2024 NEVI Deployment Plan Update Presentation to the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group](#), Ben De Alba and Jim McKinney, CEC Fuels and Transportation Division

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG Discussion
    - Imperative of public engagement with local community members to ensure that charging stations benefit and are used by local residents, not just people driving through communities (siting in disadvantaged communities doesn't equate to benefit to those communities)

- Importance of coordination with CARB on vehicle incentives and to ensure aligned deployment of vehicles and charging infrastructure

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

#### **DACAG Officers. DACAG may discuss, nominate and appoint DACAG officers, including the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.**

Presentation/Discussion Title:

DACAG Discussion:

- Nomination: Julia Hatton, Vice Chair
- No nominations for Secretary
- Nomination: Román Partida-López, Chair
- Votes: Motion to approve **Item 7a**, to approve Julia Hatton as Vice Chair.
  - Member who made motion: Roman Partida-Lopez
  - Member who seconded the motion: Stephanie Chen
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 6 Members Aye, 4 members did not vote (absent)
- Votes: Motion to approve **Item 7b**, to approve Román Partida-López as Chair
  - Member who made motion: Julia Hatton
  - Member who seconded the motion: Sarah Sharpe
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 6 Members Aye, 4 members did not vote (absent)

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 8**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - Chelsea will join (1) Affordability and (2) Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**

Presentation/Discussion Title:

#### **DACAG Equity Framework. DACAG discussion on current equity framework and possibly adopt revisions to the framework.**

[Draft Revised Equity Framework for Input.](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - Sarah can add to Consumer Protection and Affordability sections.

- Framework is intended as a starting point, not to replace conversation and engagement with the DACAG.

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10**

**Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB). DACAG member(s) to provide any update(s) regarding engagement with the LIOB.**

Member Update: Commissioner Baker will now be the assigned CPUC Commissioner for the LIOB and plans to join the June meeting.

DACAG MEETING ON 6-21-2024 - CANCELLED

**Notice of Cancellation Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Meeting**

**Cancelación de la reunión: reunión del grupo asesor de comunidades desfavorecidas**

DACAG MEETING ON 7-19-2024

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **New DACAG Members. Introduction and meet and greet with any newly appointed DACAG members.**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Senait Forthal, OC Goes Solar, Orange County

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **DACAG Officers. DACAG may discuss, nominate and appoint DACAG Secretary.**

DACAG Discussion:

- Nomination: Sara Sharpe, Secretary
- Votes: Motion to approve **Item 6**, to approve Sarah Sharpe as Secretary.
  - Member who made motion: Curtis Silvers
  - Member who seconded the motion: Roman Partida-Lopez
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 9 Members Aye, 1 member did not vote (absent)

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

**Sempra Company Utilities' (SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric) Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Pilot Study Plans. Sempra will present**

**and solicit feedback on their proposed Pilots which inform the 2025 Risk assessment Mitigation Phase (RAMP).**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Environmental and Social Justice Pilot Study Plan, Jaime York, Semptra Utilities; Scott Pearson, SDG&E; and Jill Tracy, SoCalGas.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG Discussion
    - Concern about lack of recognition of impacts of incidents in mitigation measures/actions presented.
    - Air Quality risks should include indoor air quality from using appliances that combust natural gas, per Stanford study released in May 2024.
    - When siting hydrogen and microgrids, avoid putting them in highly impacted communities. Location of storage is important. AB 617 coordination is important on Air Quality action.
    - Shared map of wildfire threat districts and DACs.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8**

**CPUC Equity and Access Grant Program. CPUC staff will provide status update on funding and activities of equity grant programs.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Equity and Access Grant Program

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG Discussion
    - South LA Black and Latino CBOs asking questions about the status of grants.
    - Disappointed that the Equity and Access Grant Program has been defunded given how impactful those investments would be in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.
    - Members expressed disappointment that they weren't notified that this program was going to be cut from the state budget.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**



**Summer Reliability. CEC staff will provide a summer energy reliability overview including anticipated summer weather and fire conditions, projected new clean energy resources, hydroelectric resource conditions, and an update on anticipated system reliability conditions.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Summer Reliability Update

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion listed. No action taken.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 10**

**DACAG Equity Framework. DACAG discussion on current equity framework and possibly adopt revisions to the framework.**

Presentation/Discussion Title: [Draft Revised Equity Framework for Input.](#)

DACAG Member Discussion: No discussion, item moved to next meeting.

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas**

DACAG Member Discussion: No discussion, item moved to next meeting.

### **Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable**

Member Update: No discussion, item moved to next meeting.

[DACAG MEETING ON 8-16-2024](#)

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

**DACAG Equity Framework. DACAG discussion and possible adoption of a revised DACAG Equity Framework.**

Presentation/Discussion Title:

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG members offered edits reflected in the finalized, adopted, and docketed copy of the framework.
- Votes: Motion to approve Item 6, adopt DACAG Equity Framework as amended.
  - Member who made motion: Elena Krieger
  - Member who seconded the motion: Senait Forthal
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 7 Members Aye, 3 members did not vote (absent)

## **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

**2024 Senate Bill (SB) 695 Report: CPUC staff will present on 2024 SB 695 Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases (pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 913.1).**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Excerpt from minutes:
- DACAG discussion on bill impacts and savings with long-term electrification goals, income-graduated fixed charge reduction for CARE customers, and utility profits in ratemaking.

## **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Senate Bill (SB) X1-2 update. CEC staff will provide an update on SB X1-2 (Stats. 2023, 1st Ex. Sess. 2023, ch. 1) implementation. SB X1-2 authorizes: the CEC to set a maximum gross gasoline refining margin and a penalty for refiners that exceed it; increased transparency by providing new data collection authority; creation of the Division of Petroleum Market Oversight; and the development of guidance and recommendations on transportation fuels pricing and transportation decarbonization. For program information, see: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceeding/senate-bill-x1-2-implementation>**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion occurred or action was taken.

## **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Priority Areas Discussed:
  - **Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen:** SB 48 Building Energy Savings Act workshop: strategy report with equity considerations to CA Legislature, building performance standards, starting with large commercial.
  - **Workforce Training and Development:** met with CEC staff on ZEV workforce issues and career pathways.
  - New members identified themselves as subject matter experts in certain priority areas.

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10**

Member Update: No update

DACAG Member Discussion: No discussion

[DACAG MEETING ON 9-20-2024](#)

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: CEC Presentation on Building Energy Performance Strategy Report Development. [Presentation.](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - Discussion occurred re performance metrics, tenant protections, data management and automation, economic burdens and cost effectiveness, efficiency program interactions, and building energy code.
  - Interlude: Commission Monahan joins and makes brief comments.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

CPUC and CEC Federal Funding Presentations.

[Presentation 1](#), [Presentation 2](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action was taken

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8**

**DACAG Equity Framework**

[CPUC Presentation](#)

[CEC Presentation](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action was taken

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM**

Presentation/Discussion Title:

DACAG Member Discussion:

- [State whether or not a discussion occurred, or action was taken. Do not summarize discussion.]
- [Insert motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, votes for action items.]

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - Priority Areas Discussed:
    - Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen

### **Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10**

Excerpt from minutes:

- Presentation: Jennifer Gordon, Ankit Jain, Kapil Kulparni, CPUC
  - Energy Savings Assistance Program Update to the DACAG If you qualify for CARE or FERA you qualify for ESA (efficiency and weatherization, direct install)
  - Moving from goal of # of households towards energy savings; less homogeneous and more customer-centric
  - Discussed at bi-monthly ESA working group meeting

### **DACAG MEETING ON 10-18-2024**

#### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **CEC Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan. CEC staff will present the draft 2024-2025 Investment Plan Update. DACAG discussion, feedback, and possible adoption of a DACAG comment letter will follow.**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action was not taken.

#### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Ratemaking. CPUC staff will present an overview of some of the CPUC's ratemaking practices of electric investor-owned utilities, including the income-graduated fixed charges.**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, action taken.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **DACAG Representation in CEC and CPUC Forums:**

- a. Designation of DACAG member(s) to present the DACAG 2022-23 Annual Report at a future CPUC business meeting.
  - b. Designation of DACAG members(s) to present the DACAG Equity Framework at CEC and CPUC workshops, business meetings, or other agency public meetings.
- **ITEM 8A.**
    - No vote taken on Item 8a as the 2022-2023 DACAG annual report was already presented to the CPUC by Roman on October 17, 2024.
  - **ITEM 8B.**
    - Motion for Julia Hatton to present the DACAG Equity Framework at CEC and CPUC workshops, business meetings or other agency public meetings and for Roman Partida Lopez to be her proxy if scheduling conflicts arise.
  - Votes:
    - Member who made motion: Roman Partida-Lopez
    - Member who seconded the motion: Senait Forthal
    - Vote – Motion Passes. 8 Members Aye, 2 members did not vote (absent)

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **DACAG Equity Framework. DACAG discussion of goals and options for socialization and consideration of DACAG Equity Framework in state energy policies and programs.**

DACAG Member Discussion: No discussion occurred.

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion occurred

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11**

Member Update: No discussion occurred

[DACAG MEETING ON 11-19-2024](#)

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **CPUC Presentation on the Societal Cost Test**

DACAG Member Discussion: Discussion occurred, no action was taken

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **DACAG Equity Framework**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG Member Discussion:
    - Was docketed in JAEDI proceeding at CEC.
    - Discuss further in Agenda-setting committee to determine next steps.

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**

Presentation/Discussion Title: **Governor's Executive Order N-5-24**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:
  - DACAG Member Discussion:
    - DACAG members interested in impacts of this EO on programs that serve disadvantaged communities, most impacted and hard-to-reach populations.
    - DACAG member could draft letter, to be approved at a future meeting by all DACAG members, giving feedback of priorities and issues to consider as the agencies prepare their reports for the Governor's office.

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt from minutes:

- Non-Energy Impacts (NEI) proceeding (CEC)- Jane Park is staffing it, Chief of Staff for Vice Chair Gunda
- JAEDI (CEC Equity) proceeding
- SB 100- there was a joint meeting CARB, CEC, CPUC, Elena had requested for the slide deck to be shared with all DACAG, it will be shared again.
- Building Decarb update: Joint IOUs hosted workshop on Income- Qualified programs and Clean Energy with focus on Building Electrification

**Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11**

Member Update: No update was given

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion as had.

**DACAG MEETING ON 12-12-2024**

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Agency Processes for the CEC and CPUC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Government Code Review.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Beyond Training: High Road Workforce Development

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken

**Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9**

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Comment Letter related to [California Governor's Executive Order N-5-24](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; action taken.
- Excerpt of discussion
- DACAG members edited the comment letter and discussion occurred.
- Votes: **Motion to approve Item 9, approving the letter and designating Roman to submit the letter to the Governor's office, State legislative leaders, and the Executive Offices of both the CPUC and CEC.**
  - Member who made motion: Sarah Sharpe
  - Member who seconded the motion: Senait Forthal
  - Vote – Motion Passes. 7 Members Aye, 3 members did not vote (absent)

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 10**

Presentation/Discussion Title: Beyond Training: High Road Workforce Development

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken

### **Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 11**

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG 2025 Meeting Schedule.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken

### **Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 12**

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion occurred; no action was taken.

### **Any report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 13**

Member Update: No updates

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion occurred



# Appendix C

1. DACAG Comments on NEBs Social Cost Petition (dated March 8, 2024)
2. DACAG Letter re: Executive Order N-5-24 (dated December 13, 2024)

March 8, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

CC:

California Public Utilities  
Commission Energy Division  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco CA  
94102

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Comment on Petition for Rulemaking to Integrate Non-Energy Benefits and Social Costs into Resource Planning and Investment Decision-Making**

To the California Energy Commission,

The SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Advisory Group (DACAG) provides the following comments on the petition submitted on February 5, 2024 to the California Energy Commission (CEC) by the Center for Biological Diversity, Central California Asthma Collaborative, California Environmental Justice Alliance, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Greenlining Institute, Local Clean Energy Alliance, Sierra Club California, The Climate Center, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Clean Coalition, 350 Bay Area, GRID Alternatives, The Protect Our Communities Foundation, the BEEP Coalition, the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition, and Environment California.<sup>1</sup> (Petition)

The Petition reveals the inadequacies of omitting non-energy benefits (NEBs) and social costs from cost-effectiveness methodologies. This omission negatively impacts DACs in two significant ways.

First, the existing framework masks the local impacts of dirty energy resources.

As the petition states, "biomethane production associated with dairies and concentrated animal feeding operations has led to thousands of water quality violations in DACs."<sup>2</sup> Combustion projects similarly add to local air quality degradation in communities that already suffer a disproportionate and unacceptable level of pollution burden.<sup>3</sup> Those energy resources, however, precisely because the existing cost benefit

framework omits consideration of these societal impacts, are considered by the CEC to be extremely cost-effective. Despite these environmental injustices, on account of their “cost-effectiveness,” these projects continue to make up a large part of the mix of resources for our “clean” energy future.

Second, the existing framework fails to realize the benefits of clean energy investment in DACs.

As the petition highlights, the funding allocations in energy efficiency programs illustrate this significant problem.

For instance, in the most recent budget for energy efficiency portfolios for 2024- 2027 and business plans for 2024-2031, “cost-effective” programs received an approved budget of \$3,603,369,471, while “cost-ineffective” programs under the existing framework that ignores NEBs and social costs—which are those that serve greater proportions of DAC and low-income communities—received an approved budget of \$678,339,464.<sup>4</sup> In other words, ***due in large part to outdated cost-effectiveness tests, DAC and low-income communities receive about 18% of clean energy funding compared to more affluent areas of the state.***

Clean energy developers are further disincentivized to serve lower wealth areas, and instead, the current and inadequate cost-effectiveness framework rewards developers for “captur[ing] easy and quick savings.” The following hypothetical from the Petition highlights this disconnect between the existing regulatory framework and real world needs in DACs.

The Small School District	The Large School District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited staffing from superintendent or principal</li> <li>• No access to capital</li> <li>• No ability to hold debt</li> <li>• No benefit of economies of scale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated outreach and marketing manager</li> <li>• Access to capital</li> <li>• Ability to hold debt</li> <li>• Benefits from economies of scale to buy-down the cost of the clean energy measure.</li> </ul>
Savings potential = <b>50kW</b>	Savings potential: <b>50kW</b>

Hours needed by Developer to sell product: 40 hours (due to time needed for increased outreach, education, travel time, lack of competition)	Hours needed by Developer to sell product: 10 hours.
Simple Value Proposition: <b>1.25kW per hour worked</b>	Simple Value Proposition: <b>5kW per hour worked</b>

As the petition states,

This process directly leads to “the entitlement of the status quo” where wealthier communities are consistently served (building wealth and resilience) and less- wealthy communities are passed over. Year over year, the climate gap widens, and the resources necessary to close the gap grows. As the gap grows, so does the cost to close the gap. Without incorporating NEBs into resource and portfolio decisions, the entitlement of the status quo remains.<sup>5</sup>

The DACAG agrees. Environmental justice communities are often left behind, or receive a disproportionate share of benefits from state funded clean energy resources as a result of projects not “penciling out.” Yet the reason for projects not penciling out is the over-reliance on outdated cost-effectiveness tests.

We further concur that the current SB 100/Joint Agency Report approach, while, considering NEBs and social costs, does not cure these issues.

As the petition states,

The SB 100 Pathway Analysis . . . produces different resource portfolios, or the mix of resources the State will pursue to meet SB 100. However, it silos NEBs and related social cost impacts to a *post hoc* evaluation role. In other words, the CEC proposes to include NEBs and social costs as a metric to evaluate or study various resource portfolios or scenarios in order to determine the degree of “tradeoffs” necessary under the ultimately adopted scenario or resource portfolio.<sup>6</sup>

Certainly, our group has previously amplified the need to incorporate NEBs and social costs into decision-making processes, whether in our Charter or in several comments.<sup>7</sup>

For the foregoing reasons, the DACAG supports the petition, and requests that the CEC grant the petition to inform the development of the 2025 Joint Agency Report.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

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<sup>1</sup> Petition *available at* <https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/Center-petition-CA-Energy-Commission-Net-Energy-Benefits-02052024.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Petition at 18.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> CPUC Decision 23-06-055 (June 29, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Petition at 16-17.

<sup>6</sup> Petition at 10.

<sup>7</sup> See e.g. DACAG Letter on SB 100, August 2020, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=234415&DocumentContentId=67287>, (identifying “the need for the Joint Agency Report to address non-energy benefits and social costs of energy resources.” See also DACAG Comment on 2022 IEPR Update at 4, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=248461> (“[Environmental Justice] communities are often left behind, or receive a disproportionate share of benefits from state funded clean energy resources as a result of projects not “penciling out.” Yet the reason for projects not penciling out is the CEC and CPUC’s over-reliance on outdated cost-effectiveness tests. Those cost-effectiveness tests omit consideration of non-energy benefits . . . Until the CEC corrects these omissions, clean energy program design and deployment will always be skewed towards the status quo and will not achieve energy justice . . . [the CEC should] complete its work on non-energy benefits as soon as possible.”)



December 9, 2024

Commissioner Alice Reynolds, President  
California Public Utilities Commission 300  
Capitol Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner David Hochschild,  
Chair California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: CA Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Comments re: Executive Order on Energy Affordability N-5-24**

Dear President Reynolds and Chair Hochschild,

As the State's Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), we're responsible for advising the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to clean energy programs and policies. Our purpose is to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs, including ratepayer programs. Executive Order N-5-24 (EO), published on October 30, directs the CEC and requests the CPUC to examine ratepayer programs they oversee and administer, and to report to Governor Newsom by January 1, 2025 on which programs should be modified, eliminated, funded by other means, or maintained in an effort to lower electric rates.

We share the Governor's concerns regarding electric rate affordability and responsible stewardship of ratepayer dollars. However, we're concerned about the possible unintended impacts of this EO on the individuals and communities the DACAG is bound by Charter to prioritize. The EO has the potential to impact programs specifically targeted towards and benefiting disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities, CPUC environmental and social justice communities, and CEC Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JAEDI) communities, working against both the State's equity and climate goals.

To prevent that from happening, we write to you to respectfully urge:

- **that a process for public feedback and engagement be incorporated into the program analyses conducted pursuant to Governor Newsom's**

**Executive Order N- 5-24,**

- **that CPUC and CEC ratepayer programs designed for, targeting, and benefitting disadvantaged communities be prioritized for preservation in recognition of the broad range of both energy and societal benefits they provide, and**
- **that the [DACAG Framework](#) be utilized to inform decision-making regarding program efficacy and benefits.**

In addition, we offer the following information for your consideration:

- While electric rate affordability is a concern, ratepayer-funded programs are responsible for only a small portion of a customer's monthly utility bill. It may be worthwhile to consider setting a minimum impact threshold for programs under consideration: if a program has minimal bill impact, then eliminating it will similarly have a minimal impact on affordability and should not be considered. Traditional cost-effectiveness calculations often fail to value—and may even disincentivize—meaningful non-energy benefits offered by ratepayer programs, particularly for equity communities, including health, safety, economic development, and workforce development. The impacts of equity- focused programs may be more difficult to quantify or be missing historic data collection, making them more vulnerable to elimination under the Executive Order than mainstream programs.
- Priority or equity communities are often harder to reach, which can increase the cost of program delivery. This can make equity-focused programs vulnerable when evaluated solely on energy benefit: cost, particularly compared to programs that serve mainstream customers, who may not need the same level of program support or incentives.
- Eliminating certain ratepayer programs, such as those that offer energy efficiency benefits, could end up limiting much-needed bill savings for some of the state's most energy cost-burdened customers and simultaneously set California back in achieving its ambitious energy goals.
- Targeting programs that appear to be under-enrolled, without considering the reasons for under-enrollment, risks disincentivizing utilities from trying to increase enrollment by improving access, which may disproportionately impact hard-to-reach priority equity communities. New, equity-focused programs take time to build trust, iterate, and improve customer outreach and access. Under-enrollment for equity-focused programs should be indicative of the need for improved process and program design, not program elimination.
- More public transparency is needed around the core drivers of rising electricity



rates, and actions should be focused on those core drivers that don't come at the cost of California's climate and equity goals, or at the expense of our most vulnerable residents.

- With changes in the federal government, it's likely that outside sources of funding will be less available to support these important programs; California's climate and equity leadership are more important now than ever.

We thank the CEC and CPUC leadership and staff for your shared commitment to the DACAG's equity values and climate priorities and look forward to continuing to partner with you on strategies to enhance energy affordability for all Californians while serving our state's climate goals and protecting California's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

Cc:

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom

The Honorable Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Mike McGuire

The Honorable Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas

Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission

Commissioners of the California Energy Commission