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California Energy Commission

COMMISSION GUIDEBOOK

RPS Eligibility Guidebook, Tenth Edition

Commission Guidebook

Gavin Newsom, Governor

September 2025 | CEC-300-2025-002-D

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Christopher Metzker
Rose Saga
Yoseph Saeed
Ulises Vargas
Primary Authors

Yoseph Saeed
Project Manager

Shannon O'Rourke
Branch Manager
CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

Elizabeth Huber
Director
SITING, TRANSMISSION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Drew Bohan
Executive Director

DISCLAIMER

~~This guidebook was formally adopted by the Energy Commission on April 21, 2004, pursuant to former Public Utilities Code (PUC) Section 383.5, subdivision (h), and subsequently revised pursuant to this authority and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 25747, subdivision (a), on May 19, 2004; August 11, 2004; May 21, 2005; April 26, 2006; March 14, 2007; December 19, 2007, December 15, 2010, May 9, 2012, August 9, 2012, April 30, 2013, and June 10, 2015. The requirements in this guidebook are based on applicable law, the Renewables Portfolio Standard Decision on Phase 1 Implementation Issues (Publication Number CEC-500-03-123F), the Renewables Portfolio Standard Decision on Phase 2 Implementation Issues (Publication Number CEC-500-03-049F), staff analysis, and public input.~~ Staff members of the California Energy Commission (~~CEC~~Energy Commission) prepared this draft report. As such, it does not necessarily represent the views of the Energy Commission~~CEC~~, its employees, or the State of California. The Energy Commission~~CEC~~, the State of California, its employees, contractors, and subcontractors make no warrant, express or implied, and assume no legal liability for the information in this report; nor does any party represent that the uses of this information will not infringe upon privately owned rights. This draft report has not been approved or disapproved by the Energy Commission~~CEC~~ nor has the Energy Commission passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of the information in this report.

~~ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS~~

~~The *Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Draft Guidebook, Ninth Edition* was prepared with contributions from Mona Badie, Emily Chisholm, Theresa Daniels, Elisabeth de Jong, Gabe Herrera, Sasha Linker, Brian McCollough, and Jordan Scavo.~~

ABSTRACT

The Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook (RPS Guidebook or guidebook) describes the eligibility requirements and process for certifying eligible renewable energy resources for California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) and describes the process used to verify compliance with the RPS. California's RPS has a target of obtaining 650 percent of the state's electricity from eligible renewable energy resources by 2030.

Keywords: Battery, biodiesel, biomass, biomethane, certificates, certification, common carrier pipeline, conduit hydroelectric, digester gas, distributed generation, electrical generation facility, electrolysis, energy storage, fuel cell, gasification, geothermal, guidebook, hydroelectric, hydrogen, incremental generation, landfill gas, multifuel, municipal solid waste, ocean wave, ocean thermal, photovoltaic, pipeline biomethane, precertification, Qualified Reporting Entity (QRE), RECs, renewable energy, renewable energy credit/certificate(s) (RECs), Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), repowered, RPS certification, small hydroelectric, solar, solar thermal, tidal current, water supply or conveyance system, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), WECC, Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS), wind, WREGIS, WREGIS Certificate

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WHAT'S NEW IN THIS GUIDEBOOK?

This section summarizes the changes in this edition of the *Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook (RPS Guidebook or* guidebook*)* as compared with the previous version, *RPS Guidebook, ~~Eighth~~ Ninth Edition (Revised)* (~~June~~January 201~~5~~7). In addition to implementing Senate Bills ~~350~~ 100, ~~and Senate Bill 1393~~ and 1110 and Assembly Bill 1921, the guidebook addresses energy storage systems, updated processes, ~~directs applicants to use the RPS Online System~~ and other changes.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This guidebook implements:

- Senate Bill 100 (DeLeón, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018). Load-serving entities are now required to increase their procurement of eligible renewable energy resources to 60 percent of retail sales by 2030.
- Senate Bill 1110 (Bradford, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2018). Creates a partial procurement target exemption for generation from a qualifying gas-fired power plant that is owned by and serves only one POU, is associated with the POU's outstanding public indebtedness, and satisfies other specified requirements and conditions. Under the exemption, a POU with qualifying generation may adjust its RPS procurement target by a specified amount.
- Assembly Bill 1921 (Papan, Chapter 556, Statutes of 2024). Revises the definition of "renewable electrical generation facility" to include a facility that uses fuel cells or linear generators that use specified fuels.
- ~~Implements Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), which amends existing law to increase RPS procurement requirements for retail sellers and local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs) to 50 percent by 2030 and amends the eligibility requirements for a municipal solid waste combustion facility. Additional changes under Senate Bill 350 related to RPS requirements for POUs will be implemented through amendments to the California Energy Commission's *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities (POU Regulations)*.~~
- ~~Implements Senate Bill 1393 (De León,Chapter 677, Statutes of 2016), which clarifies the eligibility requirements for a municipal solid waste combustion facility as amended under Senate Bill 350. Additional changes under Senate Bill 1393 related to RPS requirements for POUs will be implemented through amendments to the Energy Commission's *POU Regulations*.~~

Chapter 2: Energy Resource Eligibility Requirements

This chapter:

- ~~Removes references to RPS applications and supplemental information forms and directs applicants to use the new RPS Online System.~~

- ~~Clarifies the delivery method eligibility for biomethane delivered using a fuel container in Chapter 2.C.2.~~
- ~~Clarifies the documentation requirement for biomethane procurement contracts in Chapter 2.C.~~
- ~~Clarifies the eligibility for Water Supply or Conveyance System Hydroelectric Facilities in Chapter 2.F.3.~~
- ~~Clarifies the facilities that require additional information for select hydroelectric facilities in Chapter 2.F.5.~~
- ~~Amends Chapter 2.G.1: MSW Combustion to implement the new requirements under Senate Bill 350 and Senate Bill 1393.~~
- Clarifies the final delivery point for new biomethane procurement contract requirements in Chapter 2.3.3.2.
- Clarifies fuel cell eligibility using an RPS-eligible renewable energy resource in Chapter 2.4.
- Amends Chapter 2.4 to include linear generators using an RPS-eligible renewable energy resource.

Chapter 3: Facility Requirements

This chapter:

- ~~Removes references to RPS supplemental forms and directs applicants to use the new RPS Online System.~~
- ~~Clarifies that a facility shall be registered and approved in WREGIS before an application will be approved for RPS certification in Chapter 3.A.1.~~
- ~~Expands the requirements and process for the creation of retroactive renewable energy credits (RECs) in Chapter 3.A.1.a.~~
- ~~Removes Chapter 3.A.2: Extension of Deadline for POUs to Use the Interim Tracking System and puts it in Appendix B. The guidebook recasts the Interim Tracking System as a process for making WREGIS Adjustments in limited circumstances in Chapter 7.A.2.b.~~
- ~~Clarifies the eligibility date for onsite load in Chapter 3.A.4.~~
- ~~Clarifies the de minimis[1] allowance for existing facilities certified under the *RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition* in Chapter 3.B.3 and moves the criteria that are no longer applicable to Appendix B.~~
- ~~Clarifies the requirements for energy storage including pumped storage hydroelectric in Chapter 3.F.~~
- Authorizes the use of alternating current or direct current meter measurements in Chapter 3.1.2.

~~1 As used in this guidebook, "de minimis" means an insignificant amount of nonrenewable energy resources allowed to be counted as RPS-eligible.~~

- Amends the meter accuracy requirement of ±2 percent to ±0.5 percent in Chapter 3.1.2.
- Removes the section for facilities with directly connected energy storage devices under alternative measurement methods in Chapter 3.2.1.3.
- Updates location requirements to include references to California state waters and the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone in Chapter 3.3.
- Clarifies location eligibility for facilities located outside the WECC service area in Chapter 3.3.
- Removes the energy storage categories, integrated and directly connected, and updates the loss accounting requirements for energy storage devices located behind the same point of interconnection as an RPS-eligible facility in Chapter 3.6.1.
- Clarifies the requirements for facilities that utilize electricity inputs from eligible renewable energy resources in Chapter 3.6.2.
- Adds requirements in Chapter 3.7 for facilities that are subject to providing a permit to operate under Title V of the Clean Air Act.

Chapter 4: RPS Online System

~~California's RPS program is being updated with the introduction of a Web-based online system, which was developed to streamline the RPS certification application and reporting processes. The RPS Online System was developed with input from stakeholders and the public and uses similar forms as the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook*. Because of these changes, the forms used for RPS certification application, supplemental information, and verification reporting are not included in this guidebook if they are in the RPS Online System. Applicants shall use the RPS Online System starting January 25, 2017, when the *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition* takes effect. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications using the forms in the *RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition* no later than January 6, 2017, to allow time to transition to the RPS Online System. Processing of applications received between January 6, 2017, and January 25, 2017, the adoption date of the *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition,* may be delayed during the transition.~~

This chapter:

- Clarifies the corrections process after an application is submitted in Chapter 4.2.1.
- Sets a 180-day deadline for organizations to complete a facility's application transfer in the RPS Online system when a facility's ownership changes in Chapter 4.2.

~~Provides an overview of the RPS Online System.~~

- ~~**Describes the process for establishing an account for organizations wishing to participate in the RPS program.**~~
- ~~**Describes the requirements and deadlines for submitting RPS certification applications and annual reports.**~~

Chapter 5: RPS Certification

This chapter:

- ~~Introduces the new process to submit an application for RPS certification or precertification and clarifies the types of RPS certification in Chapter 5.~~
- ~~Clarifies the types of facility statuses in Chapter 5.A.1.~~
- ~~Clarifies the eligibility date and extends the time limit from 90 days to 180 days when submitting an application in Chapter 5.A.2.~~
- ~~Removes the topic on special cases from this chapter for generation to count prior to the eligibility date as these special cases no longer apply, and puts this topic in Appendix B.~~
- ~~Extends the deadline requirement from 90 days to 180 days when submitting an amended application and clarifies the criteria for amendments in Chapter 5.B.~~
- ~~Updates the RPS certification types in Chapter 5.C and removes some certification types that are no longer applicable.~~
- ~~Clarifies the application process for a facility that is being built in phases in Chapter 5.C.1.~~
- ~~Clarifies the eligibility of a certified facility using existing common carrier pipeline biomethane in Chapter 5.C.1.a.~~
- ~~Removes the topic on Historic Carryover Facilities in Chapter 5.C.1.b as these no longer apply.~~
- ~~Clarifies that a precertification application is not allowed for aggregated units in Chapter 5.C.2.~~
- Clarifies the usage of personally identifiable information (PII) in applications in Chapter 5.
- Amends the "aggregated units" naming convention to "distributed generation groups" in Chapter 5.3~~,~~ and throughout the guidebook.
- Amends the distributed generation group requirements to require all generation facilities within a group to share the same balancing authority in Chapter 5.3.2.
- Adds instructions for distributed generation groups applying in bulk in Chapter 5.3.2.

Chapter 6: Annual Facility Reports

- No changes in this chapter.~~This chapter:~~
-
  - ~~Introduces the new process to submit verification reports using the RPS Online System in Chapter 6.~~
  - ~~Clarifying reporting requirements for common carrier pipeline biomethane and functionally dedicated pipeline biomethane.~~

Chapter 7: Annual Load-Serving Entity Reports

This chapter:

- ~~Introduces the new process to submit verification reports using the RPS Online System in Chapter 7.~~
- ~~Creates Chapter 7.A.2: WREGIS Adjustments to include Prior Period Adjustments and Other WREGIS Adjustments. Recasts the Interim Tracking System as a process for making WREGIS adjustments and describes how this process may be used in limited circumstances in the RPS Online System.~~
- ~~Clarifies that additional RECs may be retired and reported to the Energy Commission before the final determination of REC eligibility for all load serving entities (LSEs) in Chapter 7.C.~~
- ~~Incorporates Chapter 7.D: Withdrawing Surplus Retired RECs From a Specified Compliance Period to Be and Used for the Following Compliance Period consistent with Resolution No. 16-0309-04a, which was adopted by the Energy Commission on March 9, 2016.~~
- Updates the guidebook to reflect the RPS Publicly Owned Utilities (POU) Regulations related to Long-Term Procurement Requirements (LTR) in Chapter 7.1.1.2 and Chapter 7.1.1.3.
- Clarifies the reporting process for WREGIS adjustments in Chapter 7.1.2.
- Removes the requirement that RECs cannot be counted for a reporting year earlier than the REC vintage year in Chapter 7.2.
- Removes the requirement that e-Tags must be provided for REC claims from facilities that utilize pseudo-tie schedules in Chapter 7.2.1.

Chapter 8: Administration

This chapter:

- ~~Clarifies the requirements in Chapter 8.A.5.~~
- ~~Incorporates revisions to the appeal process in Chapter 7.C: Reconsideration of RPS Certification to address amendments to the Energy Commission's regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 1230, et seq., consistent with Resolution No. 16-0309-4b, which the Energy Commission adopted on March 9, 2016.~~
- ~~Allows the submittal of the time extension and waiver request using the RPS Online System and clarifies the process in Chapter 8.D.3.~~
- ~~Removes the 30-day due date extension limit in Chapter 8.D.4. and clarifies the process.~~
- Clarifies facilities must comply with existing laws related to RPS program including licensing, permitting, and reporting obligations, in Chapter 8.2.3.
- Revises the code section for information and records that may be disclosed to the public under the California Public Records Act in Chapter 8.2.3.
- Clarifies the revocation of certification for facilities that do not comply with existing laws related to the RPS program in Chapter 8.4.1.

Glossary of Terms

The following terms related to the RPS program have been added or revised in the Glossary of Terms:

- Additional electricity resource
- ~~Biomass~~
- ~~Biomethane~~
- California state waters
- Distributed generation facility
- Distributed generation group (formerly aggregated unit)
- Energy storage device
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Paired energy storage
- ~~Project~~
- Public information
- Pumped storage hydroelectric
- ~~Retail sales~~
- Round-trip efficiency losses
- ~~Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)~~

Appendix A: Statutory History

- Adds description of new legislation: Senate Bill ~~350~~ 100, ~~and~~ Senate Bill ~~1393~~1110, and Assembly Bill 1921.

Appendix B: Archive

- Keeps historical topics that are no longer applicable such as requirements on Hydroelectric Generation Unit Operated as Part of a Water Supply or Conveyance System, Extension of Deadline for POUs to Use the Interim Tracking System, Other Nonrenewable Energy Resource Allowances, and Special Cases.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WHAT'S NEW IN THIS GUIDEBOOK?

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New Legislation

This guidebook:

- Senate Bill 100 (DeLeón, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) load-serving entities are now required to increase their procurement of eligible renewable energy resources to 60 percent of retail sales by 2030.
- Senate Bill 1110 (Bradford, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2018). Creates a partial procurement target exemption for generation from a qualifying gas-fired power plant that is owned by and serves only one POU, is associated with the POU's outstanding public indebtedness, and satisfies other specified requirements and conditions. Under the exemption, a POU with qualifying generation may adjust its RPS procurement target by a specified amount.
- Implements Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), which amends existing law to increase RPS procurement requirements for retail sellers and local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs) to 50 percent by 2030 and amends the eligibility requirements for a municipal solid waste combustion facility. Additional changes under Senate Bill 350 related to RPS requirements for POUs will be implemented through amendments to the California Energy Commission's *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities (POU Regulations).*
- Implements Senate Bill 1393 (De León,Chapter 677, Statutes of 2016), which clarifies the eligibility requirements for a municipal solid waste combustion facility as amended under Senate Bill 350. Additional changes under Senate Bill 1393 related to RPS requirements for POUs will be implemented through amendments to the Energy Commission's *POU Regulations.*

Energy Resource Eligibility Requirements

This chapter:**d**

- Removes references to RPS applications and supplemental information forms and directs applicants to use the new RPS Online System.

- Clarifies the delivery method eligibility for biomethane delivered using a fuel container in Chapter 2.C.2.

- Clarifies the documentation requirement for biomethane procurement contracts in Chapter 2.C.

- Clarifies the eligibility for Water Supply or Conveyance System Hydroelectric Facilities in Chapter 2.F.3.

- Clarifies the facilities that require additional information for select hydroelectric facilities in Chapter 2.F.5.

- Amends Chapter 2.G.1: MSW Combustion to implement the new requirements under Senate Bill 350 and Senate Bill 1393.

Facility Requirements

This chapter:

- Removes references to RPS supplemental forms and directs applicants to use the new RPS Online System.

- Clarifies that a facility shall be registered and approved in WREGIS before an application will be approved for RPS certification in Chapter 3.A.1.

- Expands the requirements and process for the creation of retroactive renewable energy credits (RECs) in Chapter 3.A.1.a.

- Removes Chapter 3.A.2: Extension of Deadline for POUs to Use the Interim Tracking System and puts it in Appendix B. The guidebook recasts the Interim Tracking System as a process for making WREGIS Adjustments in limited circumstances in Chapter 7.A.2.b.

- Clarifies the eligibility date for onsite load in Chapter 3.A.4.

- Clarifies the de minimis[2] allowance for existing facilities certified under the *RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition* in Chapter 3.B.3 and moves the criteria that are no longer applicable to Appendix B.

- Clarifies the requirements for energy storage including pumped storage hydroelectric in Chapter 3.F.

RPS Online System

California's RPS program is being updated with the introduction of a Web-based online system, which was developed to streamline the RPS certification application and reporting processes. The RPS Online System was developed with input from stakeholders and the public and uses similar forms as the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook*. Because of these changes, the forms used for RPS certification application, supplemental information, and verification reporting are not included in this guidebook if they are in the RPS Online System. Applicants shall use the RPS Online System starting January 25, 2017, when the *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition* takes effect. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications using the forms in the *RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition* no later than January 6, 2017, to allow time to transition to the RPS Online System. Processing of applications received between January 6, 2017, and January 25, 2017, the adoption date of the *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition,* may be delayed during the transition.

This chapter:

- Provides an overview of the RPS Online System.

2 As used in this guidebook, "de minimis" means an insignificant amount of nonrenewable energy resources allowed to be counted as RPS-eligible.

- ~~Describes the process for establishing an account for organizations wishing to participate in the RPS program.~~

- ~~Describes the requirements and deadlines for submitting RPS certification applications and annual reports.~~

~~RPS Certification~~

~~This chapter:~~

- ~~Introduces the new process to submit an application for RPS certification or precertification and clarifies the types of RPS certification in Chapter 5.~~

- ~~Clarifies the types of facility statuses in Chapter 5.A.1.~~

- ~~Clarifies the eligibility date and extends the time limit from 90 days to 180 days when submitting an application in Chapter 5.A.2.~~

- ~~Removes the topic on special cases from this chapter for generation to count prior to the eligibility date as these special cases no longer apply, and puts this topic in Appendix B.~~

- ~~Extends the deadline requirement from 90 days to 180 days when submitting an amended application and clarifies the criteria for amendments in Chapter 5.B.~~

- ~~Updates the RPS certification types in Chapter 5.C and removes some certification types that are no longer applicable.~~

- ~~Clarifies the application process for a facility that is being built in phases in Chapter 5.C.1.~~

- ~~Clarifies the eligibility of a certified facility using existing common carrier pipeline biomethane in Chapter 5.C.1.a.~~

- ~~Removes the topic on Historic Carryover Facilities in Chapter 5.C.1.b as these no longer apply.~~

- ~~Clarifies that a precertification application is not allowed for aggregated units in Chapter 5.C.2.~~

~~Annual Facility Reports~~

~~This chapter:~~

- ~~Introduces the new process to submit verification reports using the RPS Online System in Chapter 6.~~

- ~~Clarifying reporting requirements for common carrier pipeline biomethane and functionally dedicated pipeline biomethane.~~

~~Annual Load-Serving Entity Reports~~

~~This chapter:~~

- ~~Introduces the new process to submit verification reports using the RPS Online System in Chapter 7.~~
- ~~Creates Chapter 7.A.2: WREGIS Adjustments to include Prior Period Adjustments and Other WREGIS Adjustments. Recasts the Interim Tracking System as a process for making WREGIS adjustments and describes how this process may be used in limited circumstances in the RPS Online System.~~
- ~~Clarifies that additional RECs may be retired and reported to the Energy Commission before the final determination of REC eligibility for all load serving entities (LSEs) in Chapter 7.C.~~
- ~~Incorporates Chapter 7.D: Withdrawing Surplus Retired RECs From a Specified Compliance Period to Be and Used for the Following Compliance Period consistent with Resolution No. 16-0309-04a, which was adopted by the Energy Commission on March 9, 2016.~~

~~Administration~~

~~This chapter:~~

- ~~Clarifies the requirements in Chapter 8.A.5.~~
- ~~Incorporates revisions to the appeal process in Chapter 7.C: Reconsideration of RPS Certification to address amendments to the Energy Commission's regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 1230, et seq., consistent with Resolution No. 16-0309-4b, which the Energy Commission adopted on March 9, 2016.~~

- ~~Allows the submittal of the time extension and waiver request using the RPS Online System and clarifies the process in Chapter 8.D.3.~~

- ~~Removes the 30-day due date extension limit in Chapter 8.D.4. and clarifies the process.~~

~~Glossary of Terms~~

~~The following terms related to the RPS program have been revised in the Glossary of Terms:~~

- ~~Biomass~~Additional electricity resource

- ~~Biomethane~~Paired

- ~~Project~~Pumped storage hydroelectric

- ~~Retail sales~~Round-trip efficiency losses

- ~~Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)~~Energy Storage Device

~~Appendix A: Statutory History~~

- ~~Adds description of new legislation: Senate Bill 350~~ 100 ~~and Senate Bill 1393~~1110~~.~~

~~Appendix B: Archive~~

- ~~Keeps historical topics that are no longer applicable such as requirements on Hydroelectric Generation Unit Operated as Part of a Water Supply or Conveyance~~

~~System, Extension of Deadline for POUs to Use the Interim Tracking System, Other Nonrenewable Energy Resource Allowances, and Special Cases.~~

CHAPTER 1:
Introduction

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) developed this guidebook to implement and administer portions of California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) under the following legislation:

- Senate Bill 1038,[3]
- Senate Bill 1078,[4]
- Senate Bill 1250,[5]
- Senate Bill 107,[6]
- Senate Bill X1-2,[7] and
- Senate Bill 350,[8] and
- Senate Bill 1393,[9]
- Senate Bill 100,[10] and
- Senate Bill 1110.[11]
- Assembly Bill 1921[12]

3 Senate Bill 1038 ((Sher, Chapter 515, Statutes of 2002). The pertinent provisions of SB 1038 were formerly codified in Public Utilities Code Sections 383.5 and 445 but are now codified in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 as a result of Senate Bill 183 (Chapter 666, Statutes of 2003).

4 Senate Bill 1078 ((Sher, Chapter 516, Statutes of 2002). The pertinent provisions of SB 1078 are codified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.11 through 399.15. This law was subsequently amended to add Sections 399.16, 399.17, and 399.12.5 under Senate Bill 67 (Chapter 731, Statutes of 2003), Assembly Bill 200 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2005), and Assembly Bill 2189 ((Blakeslee, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2006), respectively.

5 Senate Bill 1250 (Perata, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2006) amends pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751.

6 Senate Bill 107 (Simitian, Chapter 464, Statutes of 2006) amends pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 and Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11 through 399.16.

7 Senate Bill X1-2 (Simitian, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011, First Extraordinary Session) amends pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 and amends and/or adds Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11 through 399.31.

8 Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) amends pertinent provisions under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, 399.12, 399.13, 399.15, 399.16, 399.18, 399.21, and 399.30.

9 Senate Bill 1393 (De León, Chapter 677, Statutes of 2016) amends pertinent provisions under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, 399.12, and 399.30.

10 Senate Bill 100 (DeLeón, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) amends pertinent provisions under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, 399.15, and 399.30 of, and to add Public Utilities Code Section 454.53.

11 Senate Bill 1110 (Bradford, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2018) adds Public Utilities Code Section 399.33.

12 Assembly Bill 1921 (Papan, Chapter 556, Statutes of 2024) amends pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Section 25741.

These laws set ~~goals~~ RPS program requirements for retail sellers of electricity and local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs), collectively referred to as load-serving entities (LSEs), ~~to increase~~that include increasing the amount of renewable energy they procure until ~~50~~ 60 percent of their retail sales are from eligible renewable energy resources by December 31, 2030. This 60 percent procurement mandate supports California's goal of 100 percent clean energy electricity by the year 2045, pursuant to Senate Bill 100.[10]

Under these laws, the Energy Commission was required to develop an accounting system to verify compliance and ensure that the system is operational. ~~t~~The Energy Commission is required to certify electrical generation facilities (~~hereafter referred to as~~ facilities) as eligible renewable energy resources. ~~that~~ Once certified, t~~T~~hese ~~certified~~ facilities may be used by LSEs to satisfy their RPS procurement requirements.~~,~~ ~~develop an accounting system to verify LSEs' compliance with the RPS, and adopt regulations specifying procedures for the enforcement of RPS procurement requirements of POUs.~~

This guidebook describes the requirements and process for certifying facilities as RPS-eligible and the ways that~~describes how~~ the Energy Commission will track and verify compliance with the RPS[13]. The enforcement procedures for POUs are addressed in a separate document in the *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities (POU Regulations),* set forth in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1240 and 3200~~–~~–3208.[14]

~~This guidebook continues the use of public processes to encourage participation in California's RPS while assuring program credibility to benefit stakeholders and consumers, and to help meet important state policy goals.~~ Although this guidebook ~~addresses part of~~focuses on the Energy Commission's ~~role in implementing~~responsibilities for the RPS, the Energy Commission recognizes that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) also have key RPS implementation, administration, and enforcement roles.

The enabling legislation established specific roles for the Energy Commission, the CPUC, and ~~the~~ CARB and directs the agencies to work together to implement the RPS. The CPUC is responsible for establishing compliance targets for the amount of eligible renewable energy resources retail sellers of electricity must procure and ~~for~~ determining compliance with the RPS for retail sellers. Retail sellers include electrical corporations,[15] electric service providers

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13 Unless otherwise stated, the Energy Commission will act through its staff.

14 See http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/pou_rulemaking/ for information about the Energy Commission's regulations for *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities*.

15 Also referred to as *investor-owned utilities* (IOUs) in this guidebook.

(ESPs),[16] and community choice aggregators (CCAs).[17] In addition to the RPS program implementation and administration roles noted above, ~~T~~the Energy Commission is authorized to determine compliance with RPS for POUs, including issuing a notice of violation and correction with respect to a POU for failure to comply, and to refer the violation to ~~the~~ CARB for possible penalties consistent with Part 6 (commencing with Section 38580) of Division 25.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

While this guidebook reflects current requirements at the time of publication, the Energy Commission recognizes that it may need to be revised periodically to reflect market, regulatory, and legislative developments, as well as incorporate the lessons learned from experience implementing the RPS. The revision process is discussed in Chapter 8.1.4 Substantive Changes~~Chapter 8.A.4: Substantive Changes~~.

This guidebook was developed through a public process to promote participation and to ensure that the RPS program rules and processes are clear. This edition of the guidebook, referred to as the *RPS Guidebook, Tenth Edition,* shall take effect when the Energy Commission adopts the guidebook in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 25747, subdivision (a).

~~A.~~1.1 RPS Legislation

Various laws related to the RPS have been enacted since the original adoption of this guidebook. These laws triggered the need for guidebook revisions. ~~This guidebook incorporates changes in law as a result of SB 350 and SB 1393.~~

Prior editions of the guidebook incorporated changes in law under the following legislation:

- Senate Bill 1038

16 Public Utilities Code Section 218.3 defines electric service provider as an entity that offers electrical service to customers within the service territory of an electrical corporation and includes the unregulated affiliates and subsidiaries of an electrical corporation.

17 Public Utilities Code Section 331.1 defines community choice aggregator as any of the following entities, if that entity is not within the jurisdiction of a local publicly owned electric utility that provided electrical service as of January 1, 2003:

(a) Any city, county, or city and county whose governing board elects to combine the loads of its residents, businesses, and municipal facilities in a communitywide electricity buyers' program.

(b) Any group of cities, counties, or cities and counties whose governing boards have elected to combine the loads of their programs, through the formation of a joint powers agency established under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(c) The Kings River Conservation District, the Sonoma County Water Agency, and any California public agency possessing statutory authority to generate and deliver electricity at retail within its designated jurisdiction, provided the entity may only combine the loads of residences, businesses, and governmental facilities of cities and counties within, or contiguous to, its jurisdiction that have, by resolution exercised pursuant to paragraph (12) of subdivision (c) of Section 366.2, requested the agency to implement a community choice aggregation program.

- Senate Bill 1078
- Senate Bill 1250
- Senate Bill 107
- Assembly Bill 1969 (Yee, Chapter 731, Statutes of 2006)
- Senate Bill 1036 (Perata, Chapter 685, Statutes of 2007)
- ~~Assembly Bill 1969 (Yee, Chapter 731, Statutes of 2006)~~
- Assembly Bill 3048 (Committee on Utilities and Commerce, Chapter 558, Statutes of 2008)
- Assembly Bill 1351 (Blakeslee, Chapter 525, Statutes of 2009)
- Assembly Bill 920 (Huffman, Chapter 376, Statutes of 2009)
- Senate Bill 32 (Negrete McLeod, Chapter 328, Statutes of 2009)
- Senate Bill 1247 (Dutton, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2010)
- Assembly Bill 1954 (Skinner, Chapter 460, Statutes of 2010)
- Senate Bill X1-2
- Assembly Bill 2196 (Chesbro, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2012)
- Assembly Bill 2187 (Bradford, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2012)
- Assembly Bill 1478 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2014)
- Senate Bill 350 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015)
- Senate Bill 1393 (De León, Chapter 677, Statutes of 2016)
- Senate Bill 100 (DeLeón, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018)
- Senate Bill 1110 (Bradford, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2018)
- Assembly Bill 1921 (Papan, Chapter 556, Statutes of 2024)

Additional information on RPS legislation is provided in Appendix A: Statutory History.

~~B. Outstanding Issue~~

~~The Energy Commission recognizes that there is renewable electricity being transferred between balancing authorities under the western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM)[18] that began operating in November 2014. EIM transfers are not specifically contemplated by RPS statute or through the CPUC implementation of the Portfolio Content Category (PCC) Classification Decision (D.11-12-052) or Compliance Decision (D.12-06-038), or through the Energy Commission's implementation of PCC classifications for POUs in the Energy Commission's RPS POU Regulations (20 CCR Sections 1240, 3200 – 3208). The California Independent System~~

~~18 The Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) is a method of resolving the energy imbalance of supply and demand using the California Independent System Operator's real-time market. See http://www.caiso.com/informed/pages/eimoverview/default.aspx.~~

~~Operator, CPUC, and the Energy Commission have begun the discussion to address how RECs associated with electricity scheduled under EIM would be classified according to the PCCs established in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16, and how the EIM schedule would be reviewed. However, as of publication date, no update is available for this item. This and other additional issues may be addressed in the future.~~

CHAPTER 2:
Energy Resource Eligibility Requirements

The Energy Commission's RPS certification of a facility means the facility can produce electrical generation and the associated renewable energy credit that may be used by a retail seller or POU to satisfy its RPS procurement requirements. To qualify for RPS certification, a facility must use one or more eligible renewable energy resources identified in Table 1 below. Table 1 lists ~~summarizes~~ the eligible resources or facility types ~~specific requirements~~ for a facility to qualify for the RPS, along with reference links and notes ~~and provides information necessary to apply for RPS certification~~. ~~Additional resource specific requirements are also provided in Table 1 below.~~ Each facility will also be required to submit information and documentation as identified in this guidebook and ~~directed by~~ the new RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

Table 1: ~~Summary of~~ RPS Eligible Resources ~~Eligibility Requirements~~

Resource ~~Used by Facility~~or Facility Type	**~~Additional Required Information~~Reference Links ~~or~~and Notes**
Biodiesel	~~No.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.1~~Chapter 2.A~~.
Biomass	~~No.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.2~~Chapter 2.B.~~.
Biomethane	~~Yes.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.3~~Chapter 2.C.~~.
Fuel Cell or Linear Generator	~~Yes, submit material required for the feedstock or technology used for generation, if applicable.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.4~~Chapter 2.D.~~.
Geothermal	~~No.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.5~~Chapter 2.E.~~.
Small Hydroelectric	~~Yes.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.6.1~~Chapter 2.F.1.~~.
Conduit Hydroelectric	~~Yes.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.6.2~~Chapter 2.F.2.~~.
Water Supply or Conveyance System	As of January 1, 2013, new applications are no longer accepted. Refer to Chapter 2.6.3~~Chapter 2.F.3.~~.
Incremental Hydroelectric	~~Yes, must demonstrate that the generation is a result of efficiency improvements.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.6.4~~Chapter 2.F.4.~~.
Municipal Solid Waste Combustion	As of January 1, 2016, new applications are no longer accepted. Refer to Chapter 2.7.1~~Chapter 2.G.1.~~.
Municipal Solid Waste Conversion	~~Yes, dependent on the technology.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.7.2~~Chapter 2.G.2.~~.

Ocean Thermal	~~Yes, briefly describe the technology.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.8~~Chapter 2.H.~~.
Ocean Wave	~~Yes, briefly describe the technology.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.9~~Chapter 2.I.~~.
Solar	~~No.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.10~~Chapter 2.J.~~.
Tidal Current	~~Yes, briefly describe the technology.~~ Refer to ~~Chapter 2.K.~~Chapter 2.11.
Wind	~~No.~~ Refer to Chapter 2.12~~Chapter 2.L.~~.

Note: An application must be submitted for each electrical generation facility or for each ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group seeking RPS certification or precertification using the RPS Online System. See Chapter 4: RPS Online System.

Source: California Energy Commission

~~A.~~2.1 Biodiesel

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using biodiesel derived from biomass feedstock or from an eligible solid waste conversion process using municipal solid waste. When applying for RPS certification, the applicant must submit information on the feedstock used to produce the biodiesel. For energy resource requirements, see Chapter 2.2 Biomass, 2.3 Biomethane, or 2.7.2 MSW Conversion.

~~B.~~2.2 Biomass

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using a biomass fuel. When applying for RPS certification of a facility using biomass, the applicant must submit information on the type and source of the biomass used, or planned to be used, at the facility.

If the facility is using fuel that results from "biomass conversion" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40106, documentation must be submitted to confirm the fuel was produced through a process that meets the definition of "biomass conversion" and satisfies the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 44107.

~~C.~~2.3 Biomethane

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using biomethane derived from digester gas~~, and/or~~ landfill gas, or both. Biomethane may be used to generate electricity at a facility that receives the biomethane in ~~one of four~~the following ways:

a) Onsite generating facility using a dedicated pipeline ~~—~~ Biomethane is produced and captured at a landfill~~, and/or~~digester, or both that is located at the same site as the electrical generation facility using the biomethane to generate electricity.~~,~~ ~~and t~~The biomethane is delivered from the source to the generating facility via a dedicated pipeline as defined in this guidebook.

b) Offsite generating facility using a dedicated pipeline ~~—~~ Biomethane is produced and captured at a landfill, ~~and/or~~digester, or both that is not located at the site of the electrical generation facility using the biomethane to generate electricity.~~, and~~ The biomethane is delivered to the facility through a dedicated pipeline as defined in this guidebook.

c) Offsite generating facility using a fuel container ~~—~~ Biomethane is produced and captured at a landfill, ~~and/or~~digester, or both at a different location than the site of the electrical generation facility using the biomethane to generate electricity.~~, and~~ The biomethane is delivered to the facility using a fuel container containing only the biomethane being transported to the facility.

d) Offsite generating facility using a common carrier pipeline ~~—~~ Biomethane is produced and captured at a landfill, ~~and/or~~digester, or both that is not located at the site of the electrical generation facility using the biomethane to generate electricity.~~, and~~ The biomethane is delivered to the facility through a common carrier pipeline as defined in this guidebook.

~~d)~~

~~a.~~2.3.1 Dedicated Pipeline Using Biomethane

There are two classifications of dedicated pipelines:

a) Pipelines that can deliver gas from one or more biomethane sources to a single end user only, guaranteeing the gas can be consumed only at the designated generating facility. These pipelines deliver biomethane that may be at the same site as the facility or at another site.

b) Pipelines that are functionally dedicated to a designated generating facility. Functionally dedicated pipelines are physically capable of delivering gas to one or more end users, but because of operational constraints or practices, only the designated facility will consume the gas. A functionally dedicated pipeline must demonstrate that:

   1) The generating facility operator, the biomethane producer, and the pipeline operator have entered into an agreement and have prepared an operations plan to control the operations of the facility, the biomethane source, and the pipeline in such a manner that the injected biomethane will be physically delivered to and combusted at the facility in all controllable circumstances.

   2) The generating facility is the only end user of any gas flowing in the pipeline between the biomethane injection point and the facility, based on the operational flow of the pipeline as described in the operations plan.

   3) Quantities of biomethane that were injected into the pipeline and not physically delivered to the facility due to any circumstance shall not be included in the quantity of biomethane consumed at the facility that is reported to the Energy Commission or associated with electricity generation attributable to that quantity of biomethane.

   4) An applicant or authorized representative of a certified facility using biomethane delivered in a functionally dedicated pipeline must demonstrate as part of the annual reporting that the operations of the facility, the biomethane source, and the pipeline

complied with the approved operations plan in the agreement. (See Chapter 6.3 Functionally Dedicated Pipeline for Biomethane.)

~~b.~~2.3.2 Fuel Container Using Biomethane

A facility using biomethane delivered using a fuel container may qualify for RPS certification if the facility uses biomethane delivered under a new or existing procurement contract. The biomethane procurement contract shall meet specific delivery requirements as follows:

a) Existing biomethane procurement contracts executed before March 29, 2012, shall satisfy the requirements of Chapter 2.3.3.1.1.

b) Adjustments to existing biomethane procurement contracts finalized or exercised on or after March 29, 2012, are subject to the requirements of Chapter 2.3.3.1.2.a~~) –d)~~.

c) New biomethane procurement contracts executed on or after March 29, 2012, shall satisfy the requirements of Chapter 2.3.3.3 Environmental Benefits to California by showing that the capture and collection of the biomethane gas for transport through a fuel container directly results in at least one of the environmental benefits specified in Chapter 2.3.3.3.

~~c)~~

Biomethane must be delivered in a fuel container that is transported to the electrical generation facility by a vehicle, rail, or other conveyance other than a pipeline.

When applying for RPS certification of a facility using biomethane delivered via a fuel container, the applicant must attest that it has contracted for the delivery of biomethane in the manner described above and it meets the metering requirements for biomethane. This may be verified during the Energy Commission's verification process.

An applicant or authorized representative of a certified facility using fuel container biomethane must submit information to the Energy Commission annually on the amount and delivery of biomethane through fuel containers.

~~c.~~2.3.3 Common Carrier Pipeline Using Biomethane

A facility using biomethane delivered through a common carrier pipeline may qualify for RPS certification if the facility uses biomethane delivered under a new or existing biomethane procurement contract. The biomethane procurement contract shall meet specific delivery requirements. ~~and, in the case of~~ For a new or amended biomethane procurement contract as described in Chapter 2.3.3.1.2 Adjustment to Existing Biomethane Procurement Contract or Chapter 2.3.3.1.3 New Biomethane Procurement Contract, applicants must provide one of three specific environmental benefits to California as described in Chapter 2.3.3.3 Environmental Benefits to California.

When applying for RPS certification of a facility using biomethane delivered via a common carrier pipeline, the applicant must attest that it has contracted for and scheduled the delivery of the biomethane through the pipelines. This attestation will be verified during the Energy Commission's verification.

An applicant or authorized representative of a certified facility using common carrier pipeline biomethane must submit information to the Energy Commission annually on the common carrier pipeline delivery; see Chapter 6.2 Common Carrier Pipeline for Biomethane.

~~a.~~2.3.3.1 Biomethane Procurement Contract

A facility using biomethane delivered through a common carrier pipeline is subject to different requirements based on the biomethane procurement contract. An applicant shall provide a copy of the executed biomethane procurement contract when applying for RPS certification. If no biomethane procurement contract exists, or the biomethane production facility and the electrical generation facility are owned by the same person or entity, a signed cover letter must be provided by the applicant to ensure all requirements are met.

~~(1)~~2.3.3.1.1 *Existing Biomethane Procurement Contract*

A facility using biomethane under an existing contract executed by a retail seller or POU[19] before March 29, 2012, is subject to the following requirements. The applicant must demonstrate that:

a) One of the following was reported to the Energy Commission before March 29, 2012:
   1) The biomethane procurement contract, identifying the specific biomethane source(s), was reported to the Energy Commission before March 29, 2012, in connection with the application for RPS certification of the generating facility.
   2) The specific biomethane source(s) and the amount of biomethane under the biomethane procurement contract were reported to the Energy Commission before March 29, 2012, in connection with an application for the generating facility.
   3) The specific biomethane source(s) was reported as part of a preapproval request for adding a new fuel source to a specific facility that was already RPS-certified. The applicant must submit the written acknowledgement provided by the Energy Commission of the facility owner's intent to procure biomethane from that fuel source for use at the facility.

b) The facility meets the requirements of the RPS Guidebook in place when the biomethane procurement contract was executed, including, but not limited, to the fourth edition of the RPS Guidebook.

c) The biomethane source(s) under the biomethane procurement contract produced biomethane and injected it into a common carrier pipeline before April 1, 2014.

d) The biomethane is used by the designated electrical generation facility under the biomethane procurement contract that was executed by the retail seller or POU and reported to the Energy Commission before March 29, 2012. A different electric generating facility may not be substituted for the designated facility. Biomethane under

19 For this Existing Biomethane Procurement Contract section, a biomethane procurement contract executed by a retail seller or POU includes a biomethane procurement contract executed by an affiliate or subsidiary entity of a retail seller or POU for the retail seller or POU.

an existing biomethane procurement contract may not be used for RPS purposes at a different electrical generation facility.

~~d)~~

~~(2)~~2.3.3.1.2 *Adjustments to Existing Biomethane Procurement Contract*

Adjustments to existing biomethane procurement contracts finalized or exercised on or after March 29, 2012, must meet the requirements of new biomethane procurement contracts if any of the following is true for the contract adjustment:

a) The term of the existing biomethane procurement contract was extended.

b) Quantities of biomethane specified in the existing biomethane procurement contract were increased.

c) Quantities of biomethane specified as optional to the buyer in the existing biomethane procurement contract, as determined by the Energy Commission, are procured. Quantities will be deemed optional if the buyer, through his or her initiation or election, can decide whether to accept additional quantities of biomethane.

d) Biomethane sources are added to the existing biomethane procurement contract that were not identified in the existing contract or RPS certification application submitted before March 29, 2012.

e) Biomethane is procured from biomethane source(s) not producing biomethane and injecting it into a common carrier pipeline on or before April 1, 2014.

~~e)~~

Only the biomethane associated with the above adjustments to the contract will be subject to the additional requirements placed on new biomethane procurement contracts.

~~(3)~~2.3.3.1.3 *New Biomethane Procurement Contract*

A facility using biomethane delivered through a common carrier pipeline under a new biomethane procurement contract[20] that was executed on or after March 29, 2012, is subject to the following requirements. The applicant must demonstrate that each biomethane source:

a) Did not inject biomethane into a common carrier pipeline before March 29, 2012, under a contract with a retail seller or POU.

b) Commenced injection of sufficient incremental quantities of biomethane on or after March 29, 2012, to satisfy the contract requirements. The Energy Commission will determine the eligible quantity of incremental biomethane injections from a biomethane source based on the historical injection of biomethane from the source over the three-year period prior to the increase in biomethane injections.

~~b)~~

20 A "new biomethane procurement contract" includes a biomethane procurement contract executed on or after March 29, 2012; an amendment executed on or after March 29, 2012, to an existing biomethane procurement contract; or a biomethane procurement contract or contract amendment executed before March 29, 2012, but reported to the Energy Commission on or after March 29, 2012.

~~b.~~2.3.3.2 Biomethane Delivery Requirements

The applicant must demonstrate that the delivery of biomethane through a common carrier pipeline meets the following requirements:

a) The biomethane must be injected into a common carrier pipeline system that is either within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)[21] region or interconnected to a common carrier pipeline system located within the WECC region.

b) The applicant, or authorized party, of the facility must enter into contracts for the delivery (firm or interruptible) or storage of the gas with every pipeline or gas storage site operator transporting or storing the gas from the injection point to the final delivery point.

   1) For new biomethane procurement contracts: The pipeline(s) along the delivery path must physically flow from the initial injection point toward the receipt point at the facility, as determined by the Energy Commission. To meet this requirement, the applicant must demonstrate that each segment of the pipeline on the delivery path from the point of injection to the point of receipt physically flows toward the generation facility at least 50 percent of the time on an annual basis. If storage is used, then the pipeline must flow in the direction of the facility from the injection point to the storage point and from the storage point to the receipt point at the facility at least 50 percent of the time on an annual basis.

   2) For existing biomethane procurement contracts: Delivery contracts with the pipeline operators may be for delivery with or against the physical flow of the gas in the pipeline.

c) The final delivery point of the biomethane must be the generation facility with the following exceptions:

   1) New biomethane procurement contracts: The delivery requirements are satisfied if the facility is within California and ~~receives~~procures biomethane from a biomethane production site that injects the biomethane into a common carrier pipeline that physically flows within California. In such cases, the final delivery point shall be the point of injection in California into a common carrier pipeline that physically flows within California.

   2) Existing biomethane procurement contracts: The final delivery point may be at the California border, or any other point in California, if the facility is located in California.

d) Any nonrenewable energy resource mixed with the biomethane gas at the biomethane production site before injection into the common carrier pipeline system for conditioning must be delivered with the biomethane as a mixed gas. This mixed gas must meet all the above delivery requirements, though only the electricity attributable to the biomethane portion will be considered RPS-eligible.

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21 See Glossary of Terms for definition.

~~d)~~

Any change in pipeline injection or receipt points for biomethane procured as part of a new biomethane procurement contract that was identified in the initial application must be reported to the Energy Commission as part of an amended application within **180 days** ~~of~~ after the change. (See Chapter 5.2~~B:~~ Amending an RPS Certification.)

~~c.~~2.3.3.3 Environmental Benefits to California

For new biomethane procurement contracts, the applicant must demonstrate that for each biomethane source, the capture and injection of biomethane into a common carrier pipeline directly result in at least one of the following environmental benefits in California:

a) Reduction or avoidance of the emission of any criteria air pollutants (or related precursors) emissions in California, as defined by ~~the~~ CARB. A *criteria air pollutant* is an air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set. This requirement may be satisfied by one of the following:
   1) A demonstration that actions planned or taken to capture and inject biomethane into a common carrier pipeline will likely lead to such an emission reduction or avoidance in California based on standard methods used in the field. After-the-fact studies of the emission reduction or avoidance will not be required.
   2) A demonstration that the capture and injection of biomethane from the source into a common carrier pipeline result in a reduction or avoidance of emissions of at least one criteria air pollutant (or precursor thereof) in California compared to the baseline emissions.

b) Reduction or avoidance of pollutants that could have an adverse impact on any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of California, as defined by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), whether public or private, including waters in both natural and artificial channels. This requirement may be satisfied by one of the following:
   1) Referencing at least one peer-reviewed published document that established a direct and quantifiable relationship between the capture and injection of biomethane from the source into a common carrier pipeline and the reduction or avoidance of pollutants that could have an adverse impact on waters of the state.
   2) Empirical evidence to demonstrate that this requirement is met.

c) Mitigating a local nuisance in California associated with the emission of odors.[22] This requirement is satisfied by meeting both of the following, if applicable:
   1) The applicant may provide documentation showing a direct relationship between the capture and injection of biomethane into the common carrier pipeline and the

22 A "nuisance" is generally defined in Civil Code Section 3479 as "anything which is injurious to health, including, but not limited to, the illegal sale of controlled substances, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, or unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin, or any public park, square, street, or highway….."

minimization of a local nuisance in California associated with the emission of odors, as defined by the local jurisdiction. The local jurisdiction may be a city, county, air pollution control district, or other local jurisdiction in California that establishes rules or standards for nuisances of odors. A local nuisance does not need to be established under the rules or standards of the local jurisdiction to meet this provision.

2) If the operation of the biomethane production has created a local nuisance associated with the emission of odors, the applicant must provide documentation of the nuisance and demonstrate that the capture of biomethane from the source and injection of biomethane into a common carrier pipeline directly result in the reduction of the odor nuisance in California.

~~2)~~

Existing biomethane procurement contracts are subject to this requirement only for the biomethane procured as part of an amendment to, or portions of, existing biomethane procurement contracts finalized or executed on or after March 29, 2012. See Chapter 2.3.3.1.2~~C.3.a(2):~~ Adjustments to Existing Biomethane Procurement Contract.~~.~~

See Chapter 7.5~~D:~~ Special Consideration of Biomethane Procurement Contracts for relevant information regarding biomethane procurement contracts.

~~d.~~2.3.4 Biomethane Environmental Attributes

Special requirements exist for the environmental attributes associated with biomethane used to generate electricity for California's RPS. Furthermore, only appropriate marketing, regulatory, or retail claims from the reductions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) due to methane destruction may be made in connection with the biomethane procurement contract.

~~a.~~2.3.4.1 Renewable and Environmental Attributes

No party may sell, trade, give away, claim, or otherwise dispose of any of the attributes associated with the biomethane that are necessary for the resulting electricity to comply with the definition of a REC as defined in the Glossary of Terms in this guidebook. These attributes must be conveyed along with the biomethane for use at the designated generation facility and must include sufficient renewable and environmental attributes of biomethane production and capture to ensure that there are zero net emissions associated with the production of electricity from the generating facility using biomethane.[23]

~~b.~~2.3.4.2 Claiming GHG Reductions From Methane Destruction

A POU or intermediary party to a biomethane procurement contract, including the electrical generator, shall not make a marketing, regulatory, or retail claim that asserts that the biomethane procurement contract resulted, or will result, in GHG reductions related to the

23 This provision shall be applied in a manner consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.6 (c) and the CPUC's Standard Term and Condition 2, which applies to bioenergy transactions as specified in CPUC Decision 13-11-024. Decision 13-11-024 deleted and replaced the definition of "green attributes" specified in CPUC Decision 08-08-028.

destruction of methane if the capture and destruction of methane are required by law.[24] If the biomethane source is required by law to capture and destroy the methane produced by the biomethane source, the applicant for the designated generation facility must convey this information to the Energy Commission as part of the application for RPS certification.

If the biomethane source is not required by law to capture and destroy the methane produced by the biomethane source, a POU or intermediary party to a biomethane procurement contract, including the electrical generator, may make marketing, regulatory, or retail claim of GHG reduction related to the destruction of methane associated with the biomethane procurement contract only if one of the following applies:

a) The environmental attributes associated with the capture and destruction of the biomethane are transferred to the POU and retired on behalf of its customers consuming the electricity associated with the use of biomethane and not resold.
b) The biomethane procurement contract does not allow the biomethane source to market separately the environmental attributes associated with the capture and destruction of the biomethane sold under the contract, and the attributes are retired by the POU on behalf of its customers, or by the intermediary party, and not resold.

If the POU or intermediary party to a biomethane procurement contract, including the electrical generator, makes a regulatory, marketing, or retail claim of GHG reductions related to the destruction of methane, the POU must demonstrate that the attributes associated with methane destruction are retired and not resold by demonstrating *both* of the following to the Energy Commission:

a) The biomethane source is registered with a GHG project verification program and registry.
b) Carbon credits or offsets have been retired in a voluntary offset program on behalf of the POU's customers consuming the electricity associated with the use of biomethane.

~~b)~~

~~D.~~2.4 Fuel Cell or Linear Generator Using ~~Renewable Fuel~~an RPS-Eligible Renewable Energy Resource

A facility that uses a fuel cell conversion or linear generator technology may qualify for RPS certification if the facility uses either an RPS-eligible renewable energy resource, qualifying hydrogen gas, or both, as described below.

~~1.~~2.4.1 Fuel Cells or Linear Generators Using an RPS-Eligible Renewable Energy Resource

24 The CPUC will implement this provision for retail sellers.

A facility converting gas to electricity in a fuel cell or linear generator may qualify for RPS certification if the gas is an RPS-eligible renewable energy resource as described in this guidebook.

~~2.~~2.4.2 Fuel Cells or Linear Generators Using Qualifying Hydrogen Gas

A facility converting hydrogen gas to electricity in a fuel cell or linear generator may qualify for RPS certification if the hydrogen was derived from a non-fossil-based fuel or feedstock through a process powered using an RPS-eligible renewable energy resource. The electricity generated by a facility using this type of hydrogen gas is eligible for the RPS only if the electricity that was used to derive the hydrogen is not also counted toward an RPS compliance obligation or claimed for any other program as renewable generation. The applicant must submit information on the hydrogen production process as part of the application.

~~E.~~2.5 Geothermal

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using a geothermal resource. Only natural heat from within the earth that is captured for electric power production may be used to create RPS-eligible geothermal generation.

~~F.~~2.6 Hydroelectric

The following types of hydroelectric facilities may be RPS-eligible:

a) Small hydroelectric facilities 30 MW or less~~.~~
b) Conduit hydroelectric facilities 30 MW or less~~.~~
c) Hydroelectric generation units 40 MW or less and operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system~~.~~
d) Incremental hydroelectric facilities~~.~~

~~d)~~

A hydroelectric facility must meet the applicable conditions of a "project" as defined in the Glossary of Terms in this guidebook. When assessing the size of a hydroelectric facility, the Energy Commission will consider the capacity of all hydroelectric units within a one-mile radius of the facility consistent with the definition of "project." The RPS eligibility requirements for each of these types of hydroelectric facilities are addressed separately in Chapter 2.6.1. through Chapter 2.6.4. below. See Chapter 2.6.5 below for additional eligibility requirements that apply to a hydroelectric facility that~~.~~:

a) ~~c~~Commences commercial operations on or after January 1, 2006;
b) ~~u~~Undergoes efficiency improvements after January 1, 2008; or
c) ~~i~~Increases the nameplate capacity. *Nameplate capacity* is the maximum rated electrical power output of a generator under specific conditions designated by the manufacturer.

When applying for RPS certification of a hydroelectric facility, an applicant must complete the hydroelectric portion of the application in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

~~1.~~2.6.1 Small Hydroelectric Facilities

To qualify for RPS certification, the applicant for a small hydroelectric facility must demonstrate that the facility:

a) Has a nameplate capacity of 30 MW or less, subject to the definition of a "project."

b) Satisfies one of the following:

1) Commenced commercial operations on or before December 31, 2005, and a retail seller or POU procured the electricity from the facility as of December 31, 2005.

2) Commenced commercial operations after December 31, 2005, and the facility meets the additional requirements as specified in Chapter 2.6~~F~~.5~~:~~ Additional Information and Requirements for Select Hydroelectric Facilities.

~~2)~~

~~2.~~2.6.2 Conduit Hydroelectric Facilities

To qualify for RPS certification, the applicant for a conduit hydroelectric facility must demonstrate that the facility:

a) Has a nameplate capacity of 30 MW or less, subject to the definition of a "project."

b) Satisfies one of the following:

1) Commenced commercial operations on or before December 31, 2005.

2) Commenced commercial operations after December 31, 2005, and the facility meets the additional requirements as specified in Chapter 2.6~~F~~.5 Additional Information and Requirements for Select Hydroelectric Facilities.

c) Uses the hydroelectric potential of an existing pipe, ditch, flume, siphon, tunnel, canal, or other man-made conduit that is operated to distribute water for a beneficial use and was built before January 1, 2008.

~~c)~~

~~3.~~2.6.3 Hydroelectric Generation Unit Operated as Part of a Water Supply or Conveyance System

Beginning January 1, 2013, applications for certification are no longer accepted for an existing hydroelectric generation unit operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system.[25] Facilities that were certified are subject to the limitations specified below. For more information see Appendix B.

Limitations on RPS eligibility include the following:

a) Generation units certified for the RPS under Chapter 2.6.3 are eligible for the RPS starting on January 1, 2011, consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12,

25 Senate Bill X1-2 revised Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), to add existing hydroelectric generation units not exceeding 40 MW and operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system as an eligible renewable energy resource, if certain criteria are met. Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), was subsequently clarified and amended by Assembly Bill 1478 (Statutes of 2014, Chapter 664).

subdivision (e)(1), as amended by Senate Bill X1-2 and subsequently clarified and amended by Assembly Bill 1478.

b) Electricity from the generating unit certified for the RPS under Chapter 2.6.3 may be used to satisfy only the RPS procurement requirements of the retail seller or POU that procured electricity from the generation unit as of December 31, 2005. If multiple retail sellers or POUs procured electricity from the generation unit as of December 31, 2005, only the retail seller or POU that owned the generation unit as of December 31, 2005, may use electricity from the generation unit to meet its RPS procurement requirements, except as provided in paragraph (3).

c) A POU that meets the criteria of Public Utilities Code Section 399.30 (j) may sell to another POU up to 100,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity from all generation units certified for the RPS under Chapter 2.6.3, and that electricity may be used by the POU that purchased the electricity to meet its RPS procurement requirements. Electricity from the certified generation units may be sold as bundled electricity (electricity bundled with the associated renewable energy credits (RECs)) or as just the RECs, and may be sold to multiple POUs, but the total of all such sales of bundled electricity and RECs shall not exceed 100,000 MWh.

d) A POU that meets the criteria of Public Utilities Code Section 399.30 (j) shall report to the Energy Commission all sales of electricity from generation units certified for the RPS under Chapter 2.6.3 to ensure compliance with the 100,000 MWh limit of paragraph (3). The electricity sales shall be reported to the Energy Commission using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

~~4.~~2.6.4 Incremental Hydroelectric Facilities

For the incremental generation from a hydroelectric facility that underwent eligible efficiency improvements to qualify for RPS certification, the applicant shall demonstrate that the following criteria are satisfied:

a) Either:

1) The hydroelectric facility was RPS-certified as a small or conduit hydroelectric facility before the efficiency improvements were undertaken, and the efficiency improvements were undertaken after January 1, 2008. If the efficiency improvements cause an RPS-certified facility to exceed the 30 MW nameplate capacity, the facility shall not lose its RPS eligibility.

2) The incremental generation resulting from eligible efficiency improvements to a large hydroelectric facility with a nameplate capacity exceeding 30 MW may qualify for the RPS if the additional requirements of paragraph (e) below are satisfied. Only the incremental portion may be considered RPS-eligible.

b) The efficiency improvements to the hydroelectric facility are limited to improvements that make more efficient use of the existing water resource and improve the efficiency of equipment, rather than increase the storage capacity or head of an existing water reservoir. Efficiency improvements do not include regular or routine maintenance.

Efficiency improvements may include, but are not limited to, rewinding or replacing the existing turbine generator, replacing the turbines, and computerizing control of the turbines and generators to improve operations.

c) The efficiency improvements do not result in an adverse impact on instream beneficial uses[26] or cause a change in the volume or timing of streamflow.

d) The operation of the portions of the facility that include the efficiency improvements meet the additional requirements specified in Chapter 2.6~~F~~.5~~:~~ Additional Information and Requirements for Select Hydroelectric Facilities.

e) For the incremental generation from a large hydroelectric facility that underwent efficiency improvements to qualify for RPS certification, the applicant shall meet the following additional requirements and provide documentation for each:

1) The facility is owned by a retail seller or a POU.

2) The facility was commercially operational before January 1, 2007.

3) The efficiency improvements were initiated[27] on or after January 1, 2008, and were not included in any resource plan sponsored by the facility owner before January 1, 2008.

4) The facility meets one of the following conditions:

A) The facility is in California and has, within the immediately preceding 15 years from the date the efficiency improvements are initiated, received certification from the SWRCB under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1341) or has received certification from a regional board to which the SWRCB has delegated authority to issue a certification for such purposes, unless the facility is exempt from this certification because there is no potential discharge into waters of the United States.

B) For a facility not located in California, it may receive the certification following Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1341) from the applicable state board or agency, as determined by the Energy Commission, or from a regional board to which the state board has delegated authority to issue the certification.

C) The facility is the Rock Creek Powerhouse, FERC Project Number 1962, and has received any necessary incremental certification from the SWRCB as specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.5, subdivision (b)(2)(C).

5) All the incremental increase in electricity generation resulting from the efficiency improvements is the result of a long-term financial commitment by the retail seller

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26 *Beneficial use* shall be defined consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sections 659 through 672, to include the following uses of water: domestic use, irrigation use, power use, municipal use, mining use, industrial use, fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement use, aquaculture use, recreational use, and heat control use.

27 For RPS purposes, "initiated" means the facility owner planned, contracted, or constructed an efficiency improvement at the hydroelectric facility.

or POU, either as a new ownership investment in the facility by the retail seller or POU, or a new or renewed contract with a term of 10 or more years, which includes procurement of the incremental generation.

6) The incremental generation can be accurately determined consistent with the requirements in Chapter 3.5~~E:~~ Incremental Generation.

~~6)~~

When applying for the incremental generation of a large hydroelectric facility for RPS certification, an applicant must complete the incremental portion of the application in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. This information will be provided to WREGIS as part of the registration for the facility to be certified.

~~5.~~2.6.5 Additional Information and Requirements for Select Hydroelectric Facilities

An applicant must provide additional information to substantiate its application for a hydroelectric facility if the facility either:

a) Commenced commercial operations or was repowered on or after January 1, 2006, for small or conduit hydroelectric facilities.

b) Commenced commercial operations before January 1, 2007, for incremental generation from efficiency improvements initiated on or after January 1, 2008, for large hydroelectric facilities, regardless of facility size.

c) Was added to an existing water conduit on or after January 1, 2006, for conduit hydroelectric facilities.

d) Underwent efficiency improvements after January 1, 2008, incrementally increasing the generation of the facility, or the nameplate capacity to exceed 30 MW, for small hydroelectric or conduit hydroelectric facilities.

~~d)~~

An applicant for these facilities must demonstrate that the facility does not cause an adverse impact on the instream beneficial uses. A facility could have an adverse impact on the instream beneficial uses if it causes an adverse change in the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics of water, including a change in the volume, rate, timing, temperature, turbidity, or dissolved oxygen content of the stream water. In accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.5 (d), a hydroelectric facility that is certified as RPS-eligible as of January 1, 2010, shall not lose eligibility if the facility causes a change in the volume or timing of streamflow required by license conditions approved pursuant to the Federal Power Act (Chapter 12 [commencing with Section 791a] of Title 16 of the United States Code) on or after January 1, 2010.

In addition to demonstrating the facility does not have an adverse impact on the instream beneficial uses, the applicant shall submit the water-use data and documentation described below as part of an application for RPS certification.

~~a.~~2.6.5.1 Name of the Facility

The applicant shall identify names used for the facility in any documentation submitted to the Energy Commission and in any other public proceeding.

~~b.~~2.6.5.2 Ownership of the Facility

In addition to the current facility owner, the applicant shall identify any previous facility owners listed in any of the documents submitted to the Energy Commission or relevant to the information listed below.

~~c.~~2.6.5.3 Source ~~w~~Water ~~d~~Description

The applicant shall:

a) Identify the source of the water for the hydroelectric facility, characterizing the source as surface, groundwater, or other (for example, recycled water).

b) Provide a map and written description identifying the location of the diversion, well, conveyance system, beneficial uses of the water, and any other hydroelectric facilities or generation units within one mile of the generating equipment of the facility.

c) Specify the volumes of water supplied by each source and how much water is used for each of the identified beneficial uses.

~~e)~~

~~d.~~2.6.5.4 Water Rights

Applicants shall clearly establish their right to divert water by submitting all appropriate licenses or permits. This information shall identify the permitted volume, rate and timing of water diversions, ~~the~~ place of diversion, and beneficial uses.

~~e.~~2.6.5.5 Water Flow Data

The applicant shall submit appropriation ~~and/~~or diversion data (or both) for the last five years or for the period of operation if the facility has been operating less than five years, including a description of how the data are collected. Flow data shall be provided at the frequency set forth in the applicable water appropriation permit.

~~f.~~2.6.5.6 Other Permits

The applicant shall submit all other applicable permits, including those project licenses, permits, and exemptions issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), if applicable, or the equivalent from another federal, state, or local government agency. If no FERC project licenses, permits, or exemptions were issued, the applicant shall submit documentation explaining why the FERC project licenses, permits, or exemptions are not applicable to the facility. Applicants possessing a permit or license from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or from another governing body, if located in another state, shall submit a copy of the permit or license, as well as the application for the permit or license.

~~g.~~2.6.5.7 Environmental Documentation

The applicant shall submit copies of any permits, agreements, contracts, or other requirements affecting the operation of the facility, especially those that affect the volume, rate, timing,

temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen content of the stream water before and after the points of diversion.

~~h.~~2.6.5.8 Efficiency Improvements

Applicants seeking certification of small or conduit hydroelectric facilities that exceed 30 MW due to efficiency improvements must provide documentation:

a) Showing when the existing small or conduit hydroelectric facility commenced commercial operations.

b) Describing the efficiency improvements and when they were initiated and completed.

c) Demonstrating that the efficiency improvements are not the result of routine maintenance.

d) Demonstrating that the efficiency improvements did not result in an adverse impact on instream beneficial uses or change the volume or timing of streamflow. For this purpose, an efficiency improvement could have an adverse impact on the instream beneficial uses if it adversely changes the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics of water.

~~d)~~

~~G.~~2.7 Municipal Solid Waste

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using municipal solid waste (MSW) in either a combustion or conversion process, as described below.

~~1.~~2.7.1 MSW Combustion

A facility directly combusting MSW to produce electricity may qualify for RPS certification only if it is:

a) ~~-~~Located in Stanislaus County, California;

b) ~~w~~Was operational before September 26, 1996; and

c) e~~E~~ntered into contracts for the sale of the electricity generated before January 1, 2017, as specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivisions (e)(2) and (h)(3)(D). An applicant for a MSW combustion facility shall submit documentation to the Energy Commission demonstrating that the facility meets these requirements.

A facility satisfying the above requirements may qualify for RPS certification only through December 31, 2016. In accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivisions (e)(2) and (h)(3)(D), only renewable energy credits that result from electricity generated before January 1, 2017, by a facility satisfying the above requirements may be created and considered eligible for California's RPS program. The existing certification of a facility that satisfies the above requirements will be revised as needed to reflect the ineligibility of the facility for RPS starting January 1, 2017.

~~2.~~2.7.2 MSW Conversion

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it uses a two-step process to generate electricity from MSW. In the first step, the facility uses a noncombustion thermal process to convert MSW into a clean-burning gaseous or liquid fuel. In the second step, the facility uses this

clean-~~-~~burning fuel to generate electricity. The facility and conversion technology shall meet all ~~of~~ the following criteria:

a) The technology does not use air or oxygen in the conversion process, except ambient air to maintain temperature control.
b) The technology produces no discharges of air contaminants or emissions, including greenhouse gases as defined in Section 38505 of the Health and Safety Code.
c) The technology produces no discharges to surface or groundwaters of the state.
d) The technology produces no hazardous wastes.
e) As much as possible, the technology removes all recyclable materials and marketable green waste compostable materials from the solid waste stream before the conversion, and the owner or operator of the facility certifies that those materials will be recycled or composted.
f) The facility at which the technology is used complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances.
g) The technology meets any other conditions established by the Energy Commission.
h) The facility certifies that any local agency sending solid waste to the facility diverted at least 30 percent of all solid waste it collects through solid waste reduction, recycling, ~~and/~~or composting or a combination thereof.

In addition to the application for RPS certification, applicants for MSW conversion facilities shall submit supplemental documentation demonstrating the facility and technology meet the above requirements. The supplemental documentation shall include copies of any solid waste facility permits issued by the appropriate enforcement agency (EA) with jurisdiction over the facility. If a solid waste facility permit is unavailable for precertification, a copy of the permit application should be included. In the event that the EA determines that no solid waste permit is required, then the applicant must submit to the Energy Commission the information provided to the EA and the EA's official determination of the regulatory status of the facility. The Energy Commission may consult with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in determining if the above requirements are satisfied.[28]

~~H.~~2.8 Ocean Thermal

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using an ocean thermal resource, such as the temperature differences between deep and surface ocean water. As part of the application for RPS certification of an ocean thermal facility, the applicant shall include a description of the technology used to generate electricity.

28 CalRecycle is charged with implementing provisions for facilities using "gasification" technology as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40117. The criteria for "gasification" under Public Resources Code Section 40117 essentially mirror the requirements above for MSW conversion as specified in Public Resources Code Section 25741, subdivision (b).

~~I.~~2.9 Ocean Wave

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using an ocean wave. As part of the application for RPS certification of an ocean wave facility, the applicant shall include a description of the technology used to generate electricity.

~~J.~~2.10 Solar

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using either a photovoltaic or solar thermal process to produce electricity.

~~K.~~2.11 Tidal Current

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using a tidal current. As part of the application for RPS certification of a tidal current facility, the applicant shall include a description of the technology used to generate electricity.

~~L.~~2.12 Wind

A facility may qualify for RPS certification if it generates electricity using a wind resource. Facilities using wind resources can use any method to capture the naturally occurring wind, convert it to mechanical energy, and then generate electricity.

CHAPTER 3:
Facility Requirements

Facilities are subject to eligibility requirements governing the operations, location, or other characteristics of the facility. Table 2 summarizes facility characteristics that may require the submission of additional information to receive RPS certification. Each facility will also be required to submit information and documentation as identified in this guidebook and directed by the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

Table 2: Summary of RPS Facility Characteristics Eligibility Requirements

Characteristics	Additional Required Information or Notes
All Facilities	Generation tracking and accounting requirements for certified facilities. Refer to Chapter 3.1~~A~~.
Facilities Serving Onsite Loads	Additional metering requirements may exist. Refer to Chapter 3.1~~A~~.4.
Energy Storage	Yes, refer to Chapter 3.6~~F~~.
Incremental Generation	Yes, report historical generation information and improvement or expansion. Refer to Chapter 3.5~~E~~.
Interconnected to a non-CBA Outside CA	Yes, refer to Chapter 3.3~~C~~.
Multifuel Facility	Yes, report fuel use information. Refer to Chapter 3.2~~B~~.
Out-of-Country	Yes, refer to Chapter 3.3~~C~~.2.
Repowered	Yes, describe repowering and financial investment. Refer to Chapter 3.4~~D~~.
Facilities with an Air District Permit to Operate	Yes, refer to Chapter 3.7.

Source: California Energy Commission

~~A.~~3.1 Generation Tracking and Accounting

The following generation tracking and accounting requirements apply to all facilities that are RPS-certified by the Energy Commission or represented in an application for certification. A facility may be precertified prior to meeting these requirements if the planned operations of the facility comply with these requirements. For more information on the Energy Commission's process for verifying RPS procurement and generation data, see Chapter 7: Annual Load-Serving Entity Reports.

~~1.~~3.1.1 WREGIS

A facility shall be registered and approved in WREGIS[29] before the Energy Commission will approve an application for certification. As part of the certification application, the applicant shall provide the Energy Commission with the WREGIS generating unit identification number(s) (GU ID) for the facility.[30] If any of the information about the facility that was provided to WREGIS differs from the information provided to the Energy Commission, the applicant must identify and explain the reasons for the discrepancies.

A certified facility must remain registered and approved in WREGIS and comply with all WREGIS rules, and all generation must be tracked in WREGIS to be considered RPS-eligible, with the limited exceptions noted in Chapter 3.1~~A~~.1.1~~a:~~ Creation of Retroactive Renewable Energy Credits in WREGIS and Chapter 7.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ WREGIS Adjustments. Failure to remain registered and approved in WREGIS, or the inability to provide proof of registration in WREGIS upon request, may jeopardize the RPS certification of the facility. The applicant for the certified facility shall notify the Energy Commission in writing within 180 days of a change in its status in WREGIS.

Any information about the certification of a facility for California's RPS that is provided to WREGIS or represented in a WREGIS Certificate is for informational purposes only.~~,~~ The actual certification status of a facility is defined by Energy Commission records and not by information that is or is not included in a WREGIS Certificate.

~~a.~~3.1.1.1 Creation of Retroactive Renewable Energy Credits in WREGIS

An authorized representative of a generating facility or ~~generating unit~~distributed generation group, if certified on a ~~unit~~ group basis, may request the Energy Commission's Executive Director to authorize the creation of retroactive renewable energy credits (RECs) consistent with WREGIS Operating Rule Section~~b~~11~~2~~.7~~9~~.[31] At the time of the request, the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group shall be RPS-certified by the Energy Commission and registered and approved by WREGIS as a generating unit consistent with WREGIS Operating Rules.

Retroactive RECs shall not be permitted for any generation that precedes the date of the request by more than **24 months** or the RPS eligibility date assigned to the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group by the Energy Commission, whichever is earlier.

The following is the process for requesting creation of retroactive RECs:

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29 A generating unit that has been registered and approved by the WREGIS Administrator. See WREGIS Operating Rules 5.3.

30 A certification application will be accepted and assigned a RPS ID and eligibility date but will not be processed for approval if the registration of the WREGIS GU ID is pending in WREGIS.

31 The process for creating retroactive WREGIS certificates was adopted by the Energy Commission on October 7, 2014, as part of Resolution No. 14-1007-10.

a) A request for creation of retroactive RECs shall be made by an authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group or by authorized individuals identified in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. Multiple requests for the same generating facility or ~~unit~~ group are not permitted, regardless of the outcome of the request.

b) A request for creation of retroactive RECs shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director at the following address, or emailed to~~at~~ PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov:

California Energy Commission

Office of the Executive Director

~~1516~~ 715 P ~~9th~~ Street~~, MS 39~~

Sacramento, CA 95814~~-5512~~

c) A request for creation of retroactive RECs shall include the following information:

1) The name and address of the authorized representative submitting the request and the name, location, and other identifying information of the generation facility or ~~unit~~ group for which the creation of retroactive RECs is being requested.
2) The generating facility or ~~unit~~ group RPS identification number issued by the Energy Commission and any additional identification numbers used by the facility such as Energy Information Administration (EIA), Energy Analysis Office (EAO), and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
3) The generating facility or ~~unit~~ group WREGIS GU ID.
4) The vintage month(s) and year(s) of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group generation for which the creation of retroactive RECs is being requested, and the amount of RECs for each month.
5) The reason(s) why retroactive RECs are needed and why the RECs were not created in time.
6) A letter confirming the RECs, if created, will be used for California's RPS program.
7) Documentation, if available, to support the information provided in items (a) through (f) above.
8) An attestation by the authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~group declaring the following:
   A) That the RECs, as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12 and this guidebook, associated with the generation for the vintage month and year specified in Item 3.d, have not been sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to any other individual or entity or used to satisfy any state regulatory or voluntary program.
   B) That the representative will submit an audit report as specified below within **90 days** after the request is approved.

C) That the applicant or owner of the generation facility or ~~unit~~ group will pay for all costs and expenses incurred by WREGIS staff to create the retroactive RECs, if the request is approved.

D) That the information contained in the request and any supporting documentation is true, correct, and complete to the best of the representative's knowledge.

If a request for creation of retroactive RECs is incomplete, the Executive Director may either request additional information or return the request unprocessed.

If the request for creation of retroactive RECs is approved, the Executive Director shall notify the authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group that the request for creation of retroactive RECs has been approved by the Energy Commission, subject to any specified conditions.

Furthermore, if the request is approved by the Executive Director, the authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group shall submit an audit report to the Executive Director within **90 days** after the request is approved by the Executive Director. The audit report shall meet the following criteria:

a) The audit report shall be prepared by an independent accountant or certified internal auditor in accordance with standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The audit report shall summarize the auditor's findings.

b) The auditor shall verify that the RECs, as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12 and this guidebook, associated with the generation for the vintage month(s) and year(s) specified in Item 3.d above have not been sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to any other individual or entity or used to satisfy any state regulatory or voluntary program. This verification shall satisfy all of the following:

1) The auditor shall determine whether the RECs in question would have been eligible to satisfy any state regulatory or voluntary program. If the RECs would have been eligible, the auditor must obtain either of the following:

A) A letter from the administrator of each state regulatory or voluntary program, or the administrator of the tracking system used to track renewable energy credits for that state regulatory or voluntary program, documenting that the RECs in question were not used to satisfy that program. The letter shall specify the name of the facility, the vintage month(s) and year(s) of the RECs in question, and other identification to distinguish the facility. If the facility is known or has been known by different names, these additional names shall be identified in the letter.

B) A letter from the administrator of each state regulatory or voluntary program, or the administrator of the tracking system used to track renewable energy credits for the state regulatory or voluntary program, documenting that the RECs in question were tracked for that program but have been retired without having been claimed to satisfy the requirements of that program.

2) The auditor shall confirm that the RECs in question were not sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to any other individual or entity. The auditor shall satisfy this criterion by reviewing contracts, invoices, and other accounting documents prepared for, by, or on behalf of the generating facility or ~~unit~~group, and confirming that the RECs in question were not sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to any other individual or entity, or used to satisfy any state regulatory or voluntary program.
3) If the RECs in question have already been sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to other individuals or entities, the auditor shall identify the name and address of these other individuals and entities and the corresponding amounts, vintages, and transaction dates of the transferred RECs.

If the audit report satisfies the Energy Commission's criteria, the Energy Commission will request WREGIS staff to create retroactive RECs consistent with the Energy Commission Executive Director's approval and forward a copy of the audit report and related assessment for consideration and approval. WREGIS will then notify the Energy Commission of its final determination after it has gone through the WREGIS Change Control process.

If WREGIS approves the request to create retroactive RECs in accordance with WREGIS Operating Rule Section ~~12.9~~11.7, WREGIS staff will create the retroactive RECs and invoice the authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group for all costs and expenses incurred by WREGIS staff to create the retroactive RECs.

Retroactive RECs, if created by WREGIS, shall not be used to satisfy an RPS procurement requirement if the authorized representative of the generating facility or ~~unit~~ group fails to submit an audit report as specified above.

If the audit report verifies that the RECs associated with the facility or ~~unit~~ group generation (for which the creation of retroactive RECs is requested) have **not** been sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to another entity or used to satisfy a state regulatory or voluntary program, then the retroactive RECs created by WREGIS may be used to satisfy an RPS procurement requirement. If the audit report verifies that **only some** of the RECs associated with the facility or ~~unit~~ group generation (for which the creation of retroactive RECs is requested) have **not** been sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to another entity or used to satisfy a state regulatory or voluntary program, then the retroactive RECs created by WREGIS for that portion of the generation may be used to satisfy an RPS procurement requirement.

If retroactive RECs are created by WREGIS and an audit report was submitted as specified above, the LSE may submit a revised compliance report to include the retroactive RECs prior to the final determination of REC eligibility for all LSEs.

~~2.~~3.1.2 Metering Requirements

Generation from an RPS-certified facility shall be measured, in alternating current or direct current, using a meter or meters with an ~~independently verified~~ accuracy rating of ±0.5~~2~~

percent or better to be counted for the RPS.[32] The meter accuracy rating must be independently verified by a third-party organization recognized by the Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration's Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory Program. Generation from an RPS-certified facility will be measured at the first point of interconnection to the transmission or distribution grid or adjusted to reflect the energy delivered into either the transmission or distribution grid at the high side of the transformer. Measurements taken in direct current must be converted to appropriate alternating current values for reporting purposes.

Any electricity considered for the RPS, including electricity from any additions or enhancements to a facility, must be measured by the same meter or meters used to report generation to WREGIS. An applicant must ensure that the facility is using appropriate metering as required by this guidebook and WREGIS before applying for RPS certification. Additional metering at the facility may be required if the existing metering system does not conform to the requirements of this guidebook and WREGIS.

3.3.1.3 Station Service

Electricity used for station service, or parasitic load, is not eligible for California's RPS. Station service loads include all energy consumption necessary for the generation of electricity that can be supplied by the facility itself while it is generating electricity, and any loads not separately metered from any station service load. These loads include, but are not limited to, pumps, condensers, pollution controls, monitoring and control equipment, and any energy demand used in the operations of a facility that occur only in response to the operations or changes in operation of the facility itself.[33] This Station service does not include any energy used at the facility that is needed when the facility itself is not generating, maintenance, vehicle transportation, cleaning, or other similar energy uses, unless these energy uses are not separately metered from a station service load.

According to the WREGIS Operating Rules Section 9.65.2, WREGIS Certificates will not be created for generation supplying station service. Generation supplying station service must be netted from total generation, regardless of whether the generating unit provides its own

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32 The meter must be tested by a third-party organization recognized by the Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration's Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory Program. Meters installed before the adoption date of the 10th edition guidebook, must have an accuracy rating of +/-2% or better. Any revenue-quality meters installed on or after the adoption date of the 10thtenth10th edition guidebook must meet the +/-0.5% accuracy rating or better.

33 For example, for a geothermal facility, the energy demand to transport the brine from the geothermal well to the expansion chamber or heat transfer equipment (or the like) is considered *station service*. For a biomass facility, the energy demand to transport the biomass material that has undergone all processing necessary for consumption in the biomass boiler into the boiler, using stationary equipment (or at least stationary while operating) is considered station service. For a biomethane facility, the energy demand to transport the biomethane from the purchase point to the combustor (which could be the same point), and only if additional energy must be expended to move or compress the fuel beyond what is done to transport the fuel to the facility is considered station service. Any similar energy demands at facilities using other resource types will be considered station service.

station service or purchases it from another entity. (See the WREGIS Operating Rules[34] for information about the netting process.)

~~4.~~3.1.4 Onsite Load

Generation from a certified facility serving onsite load may be claimed for use in the RPS if all eligibility requirements are met and the generation serving onsite load is metered independently from any station service loads using a meter with a verified accuracy rating of ±0.5~~2~~ percent or better~~higher~~.[35]

~~B.~~3.2 Renewable Facilities Using Multiple Energy Resources

Renewable facilities must use one or more RPS-eligible renewable energy resources and may use one or more nonrenewable energy resources to generate electricity. Electricity from the grid is considered a nonrenewable energy resource for this purpose. An applicant for certified facilities using multiple energy resources shall accurately measure the annual contribution of each energy resource used at the facility and maintain and report this information to the Energy Commission annually to retain the certification of the facility. (See Chapter 6.1~~A:~~ Generator Information.)

When determining the amount of RPS-eligible generation produced by a renewable facility using multiple energy resources, the total electrical output of the facility for the year will be multiplied by the percentage renewable, as calculated using one of the equations in Section B.1. below.

$$RPS\ Eligible\ Generation = Total\ Generation\ (MWh) \times Percent\ Renewable\ (\%)$$

~~1.~~3.2.1 Measuring Renewable Generation

All applications must include a measurement method to determine the contribution of each energy resource and a list of all energy resources used at the facility. The facility operator shall maintain adequate documentation to substantiate the reported energy resource use at the facility. The Energy Commission will use the annual energy resource use and annual generation data to evaluate what portion of the facility output is from a renewable energy resource(s). The following terms are used in the equations below:

$(MWh)_{grid}$ = Grid electricity adding heat to the system

$(MWh)_{total}$ = Gross electrical generation of all generators at the facility

$(MMBtu)_{RPS}$ = RPS-eligible energy resource(s) or heat contribution

$(MMBtu)_{non\text{-}RPS}$ = Nonrenewable energy resource(s) or heat contribution

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34 WREGIS Operating Rules can be found on the WREGIS website: ~~https://www.wecc.org~~biz.https://www.wecc.org~~biz~~.

35 With the adoption of the *RPS Guidebook, Fifth Edition* on May 9, 2012, grid-connected facilities including generation serving onsite load may be certified as RPS-~~-~~eligible~~,~~ if all eligibility requirements are met.

$(eff)_{plant}$ = The actual conversion efficiency of the facility or the default 0.425
$(MMBtu)_{medium\ out}$ = The heat content of the medium exiting the renewable boiler
$(MMBtu)_{medium\ in}$ = The heat content of the medium entering the renewable boiler

~~a.~~3.2.1.1 Thermal Conversion and Fuel Cell Technologies

All energy resources contributing thermal energy to the system that generates electricity~~,~~ and any inputs not separately metered~~,~~ must be accounted for in the measurement method for all thermal conversion technologies. These ~~technologies~~ include, but are not limited to, energy resource use for startup, freeze protection, flame stabilization, supplemental firing, and any input of thermal energy used to maintain, increase, or control the thermal energy within the generation system. Similarly, all energy resources entering a fuel cell must be considered. These energy resource uses must be considered whether the facility is generating electricity at the time the energy resource is consumed. The contribution of each energy resource can be determined using~~in~~ one of the following methods:

a) Direct energy resource measurement: The energy content of each energy resource is measured, and the electric generation attributable to the RPS-eligible source shall be determined by the ratio of the eligible renewable energy input (million British thermal units [MMBtu]) to the total energy input (MMBtu) contributing thermal energy to the system, given by the following equation:

$$Percent\ Renewable = \frac{\sum(MMBtu)_{RPS}}{\sum(MMBtu)_{RPS} + \sum(MMBtu)_{non-RPS} + \sum\left((MWh)_{grid} \cdot \frac{3.413\ MMBtu}{1\ MWh}\right)}$$

b) Net Renewable Energy Resources Contribution: This option is available only to facilities using a noncombustion renewable energy resource. The energy content of the nonrenewable energy resource(s) is measured, and the ratio of the total nonrenewable energy (grid electricity and nonrenewable energy inputs) contributing thermal energy to the system is compared to the total generation of the facility and subtracted from one to determine the percentage of the output that is renewable. The contribution of the nonrenewable energy resource will be measured by the generation that an equivalent amount of MMBtu of natural gas would produce at a similar natural gas facility. The result of the equation, provided below, is the contribution attributable to the non-combustion renewable technology.

$$Percent\ Renewable = 1 - \frac{\left[(MMBtu)_{non-RPS} \cdot \frac{1\ MWh}{3.413\ MMBtu} \cdot (eff)_{plant} + (MWh)_{grid}\right]}{(MWh)_{Total}}$$

c) Direct measurement of the thermal contribution: The change in the heat content of the medium[36] is measured. This is done by measuring the heat content of the medium before and after thermal energy is added to the system. To use this method, the applicant must provide a single line drawing of the electric generating system identifying every heat source and the proposed points to measure the change in the heat content of the medium. If multiple media are used, the heat added to the system shall be measured using the medium that turns the generation turbine, where possible.

~~*Percent Renewable* = ∑(MMBtu) RPS / ∑(MMBtu) RPS + ∑(MMBtu) non- RPS +∑ ((MWh)grid · 3.413 MMBtu 1 MWh)~~ $Percent\ Renewable = \frac{\sum(MMBtu)_{RPS}}{\sum(MMBtu)_{RPS}+\sum(MMBtu)_{non-RPS}+\sum\left((MWh)_{grid}\cdot\frac{3.413\ MMBtu}{1\ MWh}\right)}$

~~b.~~3.2.1.2 Direct Measurement of the Generator Output

The electricity output of some renewable technologies, such as solar photovoltaic and wind, can be directly measured. Therefore, a facility incorporating one or more of these technologies must have internal metering to measure the electrical generation directly associated with that specific technology. Only the metered output of the renewable portion of the facility will be eligible for the RPS.

~~c.~~3.2.1.3 Alternative Measurement Methods

Applicants may submit an alternative measurement method if it can be demonstrated to the Energy Commission's satisfaction that the method is superior to the methods discussed above and is the most appropriate method for the specific facility. The method shall be based on the total annual energy input of each energy resource to the generating system, and any inputs not separately metered. The Energy Commission will evaluate and consider the proposed measurement method as part of the facility application.

~~(1)~~*3.2.1.3.1 Special Alternative Measurement Methods for Solar Thermal Facilities*

An applicant for a solar thermal facility that uses direct steam generation systems with no thermal storage capacity may propose an alternative measurement method that does not consider the use of a nonrenewable energy resource if the nonrenewable energy resource is used to increase or maintain the thermal energy of the generation system, and not generating electricity. This alternative measurement method is available only if the use of the nonrenewable energy resource satisfies all the following limitations:

a) The maintenance or increase in thermal energy is limited to levels not exceeding temperatures necessary to generate electricity.
b) The maintenance or increase in thermal energy may not exceed 25 percent of the hourly thermal capacity of the receiver system.

36 The medium includes working fluids, heat transfer fluids, and any material used to transfer heat from one part of the system to the other.

c) The use of a nonrenewable energy resource for maintenance or increase in thermal energy is limited to the period between the final daily termination of generation and daily initial commencement of generation for the facility the next morning.

Use of nonrenewable energy resources falling within these limitations need not be considered as contributing to electricity generation in the alternative measurement method. The alternative measurement method shall include separate metering of the nonrenewable energy resources used while electricity is generated and used between shutdown and commencement of generation the next morning for reporting the energy resource usage to the Energy Commission.

~~*(2) Facilities With Directly Connected Energy Storage Devices*~~

~~An applicant for a facility with a directly connected energy storage device may propose to treat only the electricity leaving the facility in excess of the imported grid electricity as RPS-eligible, if it can be shown that this approach will underestimate the renewable portion of the stored and exported electricity in all possible cases.~~

~~2.~~3.2.2 De Minimis Quantity of Nonrenewable Energy Resources

All the generation from multifuel facilities using a de minimis quantity of nonrenewable energy resources in the same generation process as the renewable energy resource, as calculated by the approved method, may be counted as RPS-eligible.[37] The de minimis quantity is 2 percent of the annual energy input to the facility, except as specified below in Chapter 3.2~~B~~.2.1~~a:~~ Adjusted De Minimis Quantity.

Facilities using nonrenewable energy resources in excess of the de minimis quantity may continue to claim a de minimis quantity of the facility output attributable to nonrenewable energy resources as RPS-eligible if the total contribution of the nonrenewable energy resource does not exceed 10 percent of the total energy inputs.[38]

~~a.~~3.2.2.1 Adjusted De Minimis Quantity

The de minimis quantity for a facility may be adjusted up to a maximum level of 5 percent of the total annual contribution of nonrenewable energy resources to the annual electricity output of the facility, if the applicant can demonstrate that all of the following conditions are met by the facility use of the increased amount of nonrenewable energy resource.

a) The higher quantity of nonrenewable energy resource used at the facility will lead to an increase in overall generation from the facility that is greater than twice the potential generation of the increased quantity of nonrenewable energy resource alone. This

37 As used in this guidebook, "de minimis" means an insignificant amount of nonrenewable energy resources allowed to be counted as RPS-eligible.

38 For example, a facility with a nonrenewable energy resource contribution of 10 percent may claim 92 percent of the output as RPS-eligible, 90 percent from the renewable fuel and 2 percent from a de minimis quantity of nonrenewable energy resource. Alternatively, a facility with a nonrenewable energy resource contribution of 11 percent may claim only 89 percent of the facility output as RPS-eligible.

quantity is calculated by applying the heat rate of the facility to the increased quantity of the nonrenewable energy resource.

b) The increased use of nonrenewable energy resource reduces the electrical output variability of the facility in a manner that results in net environmental benefits to the state.

c) The higher quantity of nonrenewable energy resource, specifically the energy resources used above the 2 percent limit, but not exceeding 5 percent, is limited to either natural gas or hydrogen derived by the reformation of a fossil fuel.

If the Energy Commission determines that the adjusted nonrenewable energy resource use of a facility does not meet the above requirements, the facility will be subject to the 2 percent de minimis limit for the applicable year(s) and all subsequent years unless the applicant provides sufficient documentation to demonstrate it qualifies for the 5 percent de minimis limit. If the Energy Commission readjusts the annual de minimis quantity of nonrenewable energy resources to 5 percent for that facility, it will be applied to generation that occurs subsequent to the Energy Commission's determination.

~~3.~~3.2.3 Other Nonrenewable Energy Resource Allowances

Historically, the Energy Commission has allowed the generation from facilities using greater amounts of nonrenewable energy resources than the de minimis quantity to be considered 100 percent eligible for the RPS if certain conditions were met. Only facilities that were recertified under the *RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition*, for an additional quantity of nonrenewable energy resource above the 2 percent de minimis and continue to meet these conditions may receive RPS credit for the entire output of the facility until the contract end date as specified in the certification. For more information see Appendix B.

~~C.~~3.3 Location Requirements

An applicant for facilities located outside California, including areas ~~or~~ beyond California state waters, must demonstrate that the facility either has the first point of interconnection to a California balancing authority (CBA) or demonstrate that the facility satisfies all of the following criteria.

a) One of the following is true:
   1) The facility commences initial commercial operations on or after January 1, 2005.
   2) Electricity generated by the facility was procured by a retail seller or POU as of January 1, 2010.
   3) The facility underwent an expansion or repowering on or after January 1, 2005, and only RPS certification of the resulting incremental generation is being sought. (See Chapter 3.5~~E:~~ Incremental Generation.)
   4) The facility qualifies as a repowered facility under Chapter 3.4~~D:~~ Repowered Facilities and recommenced commercial operations on or after January 1, 2005.

b) The facility does not cause or contribute to any violation of a California environmental quality laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (LORS) within California. (See Chapter 3.3~~C~~.1~~:~~ LORS Requirement.)

c) The facility has the first point of interconnection to the WECC service area.[39]

For facilities located outside the United States, including areas ~~or~~ beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone, regardless of facility interconnection, the applicant must demonstrate that the facility is, or will be, developed and operated in a manner that is as protective of the environment as a similar facility would be if it were in California, ~~or~~ including areas within California state waters. (See Chapter 3.3~~C~~.2~~:~~ Out-of-Country Requirements.)

When applying for a certification of a facility located outside California, an applicant must complete the location supplemental portion of the application in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

~~1.~~3.3.1 LORS Requirement

An applicant for a facility located outside California, including areas ~~or~~ beyond California state waters, with a first point of interconnection to a non-CBA shall demonstrate that the facility will not cause or contribute to a violation of any California's LORS within California. For this analysis, the Energy Commission has divided the relevant California LORS into two categories:

a) Discrete thresholds: The potential impact depends largely on the distance of the facility to the California border and the project viewshed or the natural environment visible from the project.

b) Conditional thresholds: The potential impact depends on the nature of the facility and the location.

The relevant environmental areas,[40] along with the thresholds, are identified in Table 3.

Table 3: Environmental Area Thresholds

Environmental Area	Threshold or Minimum Distance From the California Border
Discrete Thresholds	
Agricultural and Soil	2 miles
Cultural Resources	Project viewshed/20 miles

39 A facility may be physically located outside ~~of~~ the WECC service area but must have a first point of interconnection to the WECC service area and be consistent with the WREGIS Operating Rules.

40 These environmental areas are consistent with Appendix B, section (g), of the Energy Commission's regulations for power plant certification, as set forth in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Sections 1701, et seq.

Geological Hazards	2 miles
Land Use/Recreation	Project viewshed/20 miles
Noise	2 miles
Paleontological Resources	Project viewshed/1 mile
Visual Resources	Project viewshed/20 miles
Conditional Thresholds	
Air Quality	10 miles, or greater if there is potential for transportation or other emissions to impact California air quality
Biological Resources	10 miles, unless the project has the potential to impact a California migratory bird or animal population
Public Health	10 miles, or greater if there is potential for project-related wildfire risk
Traffic and Transportation	20 miles, or greater if the project could impact California air travel or traffic on California highways
Transmission System Safety and Nuisance	2 miles, although if the transmission line interconnection extends into California, the facility would be considered in-state, and an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act would be required
Waste Management/ Hazardous Materials Handling	No distance limit if California disposal site is used or materials are transported through California
Water Resources	2 miles, or farther distance if project has the potential to impact a drainage flowing into California

Source: California Energy Commission

For facilities meeting or exceeding all minimum thresholds for each environmental area, the submission of a simple explanation documenting how development and operation of the facility do not cause or contribute to a violation of California LORS is sufficient. If the facility does not meet all the minimum thresholds for a particular environmental area, the applicant must provide the following for that environmental area:

a) A comprehensive list and description of all California LORS relating to the environmental area that may be directly or indirectly violated by the development or operation of the facility.

b) An assessment of whether the development or operation of a facility will cause or contribute to a violation of any California LORS in the region of California most likely to be affected by the development or operation of the facility.

c) Documentation substantiating the applicant's assessment as required in ~~2~~b) above. For example, documentation could include environmental studies, permits, and similar materials demonstrating that the development or operation of the facility will not cause or contribute to a violation of California LORS in California.

~~c)~~

~~2.~~3.3.2 Out-of-Country Requirements

An applicant for a facility located outside the United States shall analyze and document that the facility is developed and operated in a manner that is as protective of the environment as a similar facility in California, including areas ~~-~~within California state waters. To meet this requirement, the analysis performed by the applicant must include all ~~of~~ the following:

a) A comprehensive list and description of all California LORS that would apply to a similar facility located within California, including areas within California state waters, at a location designated by the applicant.

b) An explanation of how the facility will be developed and operated in a manner that is as protective of the environment as a similar facility located in California, including areas within California state waters, including whether the developer ~~and/~~or operator or both will secure and put in place mitigation measures to ensure that these LORS are followed.

c) Documentation substantiating the applicant's assessment as required in b) above. For example, documentation could include environmental studies, permits, and similar materials demonstrating that the development and operation of the facility will protect the environment to the same extent as provided by these LORS for a similar facility located in California, including areas within California state waters.

~~c)~~

~~D.~~3.4 Repowered Facilities

An applicant wishing to revise the commercial operations date of a facility may do so by repowering the facility as described in this chapter. The date the facility recommences commercial operations may be used as the new commercial operations date. Only an applicant seeking to revise the commercial operations date of a facility needs to apply for RPS certification as a repowered facility. Applicants seeking to certify a facility as a repowered facility shall document the following:

a) The prime generating equipment of the facility is replaced with new equipment.

b) The capital investments made to repower the facility have a value equal to at least 80 percent of the repowered facility.

~~b)~~

Facilities consisting of multiple electrical generation units may be partially repowered if the repowered generating unit can be RPS-certified as a facility, separate from the generating units that were not repowered.

~~1.~~3.4.1 Prime Generating Equipment

All prime generating equipment at the facility shall be replaced with new equipment for the facility. The prime generating equipment for each renewable resource is defined as follows:

a) Wind: the wind turbine, including the electricity generator, gearbox (if any), nacelle, and blades~~.~~
b) Biomass: the boiler, electricity generator, and the steam turbine~~.~~
c) Geothermal: the electricity generator and the turbine, including the turbine rotors, shaft, stationary blades, and any gear assemblies~~.~~
d) Small and conduit hydroelectric: the electricity generator, turbine, and structures directly supporting the turbine~~.~~
e) Solid waste conversion: the gasifier (gasifying equipment), the electricity generator, and either the internal combustion engine or combustion turbine, as applicable~~.~~
f) Biomethane: the electricity generator and either the internal combustion engine or combustion turbine, as applicable~~.~~
g) Solar:
    1) Solar thermal: the electricity generator, steam turbine, and solar boiler~~.~~
    2) Solar p~~P~~hotovoltaic: the photovoltaic panel(s)~~.~~

A facility that does not use any of the prime generating equipment listed above shall replace the equivalent equipment or the appropriate prime generating equipment for that technology type.

~~2.~~3.4.2 Capital Investments

The applicant must document that the capital investments to the portions of the facility directly contributing to electricity production have a value equal to at least 80 percent of the value of the repowered facility. The portion of the facility that directly contributes to electricity production includes the prime generating equipment; fuel processing, enhancing, and delivery equipment at the facility; and any associated process control equipment and structures at the facility.

The capital investments shall be made not more than two years before the facility reenters commercial operations, unless it can demonstrate that the procurement or construction associated with repowering began more than two years before the date the facility reenters commercial operations.

Capital investments in the following equipment may be used to meet the 80 percent threshold: electricity generators and related equipment; fuel processing, enhancing, and delivery equipment; control equipment; associated process control equipment; and structures used to support the aforementioned equipment. Expenditures for environmental control equipment, air pollution control equipment, land, or in~~-~~tangibles, such as goodwill or the value of the power purchase contract of a facility, may not be used to meet the 80 percent threshold~~,~~ because these expenditures do not directly contribute to the production of electricity.

The applicant must provide documentation, such as invoice receipts, verifying the replacement of the old equipment, as well as other relevant components of the facility. Only documented capital investments to the portions of the facility directly contributing to the production of electricity are eligible to contribute to the 80 percent threshold.

An applicant shall demonstrate compliance with the 80 percent threshold by one of two methods:

a) Tax records method

b) Replacement value method

~~b)~~

An applicant for precertification must provide documentation available to support ~~the~~ future compliance with these requirements, including any documentation available demonstrating preliminary compliance with these requirements.

~~a.~~3.4.2.1 Tax Records Method

The applicant shall document and provide all ~~of~~ the following to the Energy Commission:

a) All relevant tax records.

b) A list of all eligible capital investments made to the facility.

c) The year and month in which the investments were made.

d) The value of capital investments, which is the original tax "basis" declared to the Internal Revenue Service to calculate depreciation. The tax basis should reflect the value of the equipment the applicant has attested to purchasing.

e) The value of the repowered facility, which is based on the sum of the tax basis declared for all the equipment and structures in the repowered facility as of the year the facility is repowered. For new equipment and structures, the value of the repowered facility is the original tax basis. For existing equipment and structures, the value of the repowered facility is the tax basis as adjusted for depreciation. For facilities financed using a sale/lease-back or similar structure, the original tax basis of the equipment and structures for both the lessor and lessee will be considered.

~~e)~~

~~b.~~3.4.2.2 Replacement Value Method

The applicant must document and provide all ~~of~~ the following to the Energy Commission:

a) All relevant financial records.

b) A list of all eligible capital investments made to the facility.

c) The year and month in which the investments were made.

d) The value of the equipment replaced in the facility, based on the purchase price of the equipment.

e) An independent evaluation of the replacement cost of existing equipment. The evaluation should be an estimate of the capital costs that would have to be incurred to

replace the existing equipment. This estimate must be provided by an accountant in good standing with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or a member in good standing and certified as an internal auditor with the Institute of Internal Audits.

~~e)~~

~~E.~~3.5 Incremental Generation

The incremental generation is defined as the electricity generated by the facility in excess of the historical baseline. An applicant may seek RPS certification for only the incremental output of a facility. To do so, the applicant shall document and provide all ~~of~~ the following:

a) A brief description of each capital investment made to the facility and how the capital investment resulted in incremental generation at the facility. These capital investments cannot include any investment that would have been made on operation and maintenance in the normal course of business.

b) Evidence that the incremental generation is not the result of: ~~weather fluctuations, a recurring or random event, economic events including decreased energy resource costs or increased electricity demand, some similar event that is not associated with a capital investment made to the facility, or an increased use of the water resource for hydroelectric facilities.~~

1) Weather fluctuations,

2) A recurring or random event,

3) Economic events including decreased energy resource costs or increased electricity demand,

4) Some similar event that is not associated with a capital investment made to the facility, or

~~b)~~5) An increased use of the water resource for hydroelectric facilities.

c) Information necessary to comply with one of the following methods to determine the incremental generation at the facility:

1) Direct measurement

2) Calculated measurement

3) Rated facility improvement, hydroelectric facilities only

~~3)~~

An applicant for the certification of incremental generation must submit the incremental portion of the application using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. This information will be provided to WREGIS as part of the registration process for the facility to be certified.

~~1.~~3.5.1 Direct Measurement Method

Directly measuring the incremental generation of the facility requires that the portion of the facility producing the incremental generation be metered separately from the remainder of the

facility. Facilities capable of separately measuring the incremental portion of the facility are strongly encouraged to account for the incremental portion of the facility in this manner.

~~2.~~3.5.2 Calculated Measurement Method

In cases where the incremental portion of the facility output is not separately metered, the historical and renewable baselines for the facility must be established as described below.

a) Historical baseline: the average monthly generation from the 36-~~-~~month period (for hydroelectric facilities, 240 months) immediately preceding the initiation of construction to which the incremental generation is attributed, or any generation decreases in anticipation of construction. If a major maintenance or economic event results in a reduction of more than 25 percent from the average monthly generation for one or more months during this period, generation month(s) must be added to replace the month(s) with a significant decrease in generation.

b) Renewable baseline: the average monthly generation attributable to only the renewable portion of the generation over the same period as the historical baseline. (See Chapter 3.2~~B:~~ Renewable Facilities Using Multiple Energy Resources.) If no nonrenewable energy resources were used at the facility to generate electricity during the historical baseline period, the renewable baseline will be equal to the historical baseline.

~~b)~~

The generation attributed to the baseline generation, which cannot be counted as RPS-eligible, shall include renewable generation equal to the renewable baseline and include additional generation, renewable or nonrenewable, equal to the remainder of the historical baseline. Facilities not producing renewable generation in excess of the renewable baseline, or any generation in excess of the historical baseline, in a particular month will not produce any incremental generation that month.

Electricity generation attributable to the use of nonrenewable energy resources may be used as RPS-eligible incremental generation only if the nonrenewable energy resource contribution to both the entire output of the facility and the incremental generation complies with the requirements in Chapter 3.2~~B:~~ Renewable Facilities Using Multiple Energy Resources.

~~3.~~3.5.3 Rated Facility Improvement

If preferred, an applicant for hydroelectric facilities may use a pro rata approach to determine the incremental generation of a facility. The approach will be based on a percentage calculation of the additional generation due to a facility improvement. To do so, the applicant must demonstrate that all ~~of~~ the following are true~~,~~ and provide supporting documentation, as necessary:

a) The facility has collected water flow information over a sufficient period to demonstrate a historical average annual hydropower production baseline and has documented the anticipated improvement in annual generation for the facility based on the same water flow information and conditions used to support the calculation of historical average annual hydropower production baseline. The water flow information and conditions and all associated documentation must be provided to the Energy Commission.

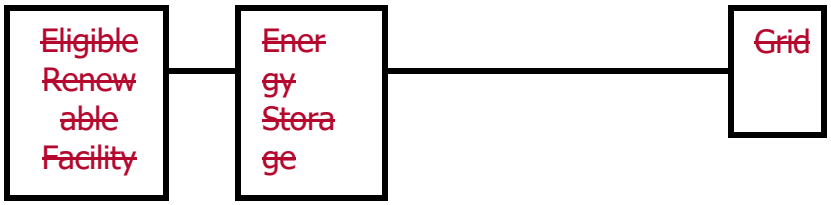
b) The proposed pro rata approach has been approved by FERC under the FERC Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit, pursuant to the Energy Policy Act (2005) as evidenced by an application complying with FERC's published guidance document and a FERC Order Certifying Incremental Hydropower Generation.

~~F.~~3.6 Energy Storage

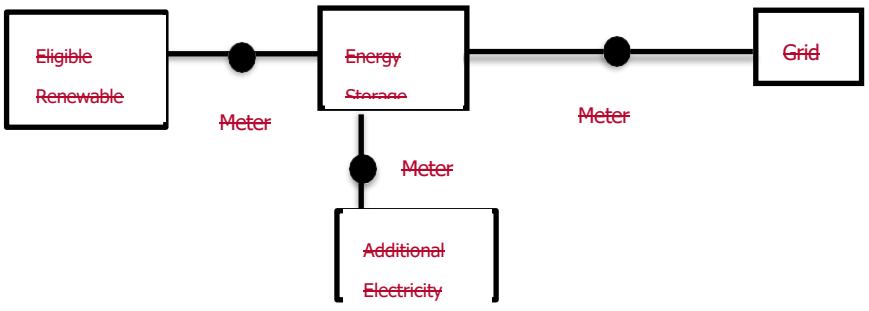
3.6.1 ~~1.~~ Paired Energy Storage

~~Energy storage technologies, including pumped storage hydroelectric, are not inherently renewable as they are not dependent on the use of a renewable energy resource. However, a~~An energy storage device can be paired with an eligible renewable facility~~,~~ if it is behind a single point of interconnection, as either an addition or enhancement or as a stand-alone energy storage device. An energy storage device ~~may~~shall be considered an addition or enhancement to an eligible renewable facility, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 25741, subdivision (a)(1), if the energy storage device is paired with a renewable energy resource and is located behind the meter used to report generation to both WREGIS and the Energy Commission. For more information on metering requirements, please refer to Chapter 3.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ Metering Requirements for specific guidance.~~either:~~

~~a) Integrated into the facility, such that the energy storage device is capable of storing only energy produced by the facility, either as an intermediary form of energy during the generation cycle or after electricity has been generated.~~



~~b) Directly connected to the facility, such that electricity is delivered from the renewable generator to the energy storage device behind the meter used for RPS purposes and any electricity from a source other than the renewable generator is included as an energy input to the facility. The energy storage device must be operated as part of the facility represented in the application and not in conjunction with any other facility, renewable or otherwise.~~



~~All applicable energy resource eligibility requirements and facility requirements must comply with the metering requirements and be met by the facility as a whole, including the energy storage device. Energy storage devices or facilities not falling into one of these two classifications are not eligible for the RPS as part of a facility and may not receive RPS certification. Moreover, energy storage devices falling into one of these classifications are not certified for RPS separately but as part of a facility and do not increase the renewable generation of a facility.~~ Energy storage devices certified under the RPS may ~~only~~ be certified only as part of an eligible renewable facility ~~and~~ if they do not increase the renewable generation of a facility. Only generation attributable to the eligible renewable energy resource(s) may be ~~eligible~~used to produce RECs that are eligible for RPS. Any round-trip efficiency losses from energy storage classified as an addition or enhancement must be subtracted or netted from the generation of an eligible renewable facility.~~35~~41

An eligible renewable facility using an~~one of the two qualified~~ energy storage device~~s~~ classified as an addition or enhancement shall accurately meter, measure, and report to WREGIS the tot~~r~~al eligible renewable generation, minus any round-trip efficiency losses or electricity inputs from other sources ~~the contribution of each energy resource used at the facility~~. This generation can be determined using the ~~in one of the~~ following formula~~methods~~, either by direct measurement or calculation:

~~1. Measurement of energy resource integrated into the facility:~~

~~$Renewable\ Generation = \Sigma(\text{MWh})_{\text{electricity from an eligible renewable facility}} - \Sigma(\text{MWh})_{\text{losses from energy storage}}$~~

~~2. Measurement of energy resources directly connected to the facility:~~

$$Renewable\ Generation = \Sigma(\text{MWh})_{\text{electricity from an eligible renewable resource(s)facility}} - \Sigma(\text{MWh})_{\text{round-trip efficiency losses from energy storage}} - \Sigma(\text{MWh})_{\text{additional electricity resource(s)}}$$

The loss accounting requirements outlined in this chapter ~~only~~ apply only to energy storage devices that meet the definition of an addition or enhancement.

Stand-alone energy storage devices behind the same point of interconnection but not located behind the meter used to report the generation of a facility~~'s generation~~ to RPS and WREGIS shall~~are~~ not be considered an addition or enhancement to an eligible renewable facility. ~~and t~~Therefore, these stand-alone energy storage devices are not subject to loss accounting and shall not be certified as part of the facility. In addition, an energy storage device cannot be

41 ~~A~~For example, an eligible renewable facility ~~that has an energy~~ paired with storage ~~device may count only the generation that is exported to the grid. If there are losses from energy storage, the amount of generation will be subtracted from the generation produced by the facility. For example, a facility~~ and classified as an addition or enhancement that generates 100 MWh ~~a day~~ but loses 10 MWh from energy storage round-trip efficiency losses shall ~~will count~~ only be credited 90~~9~~ MWh for RPS compliance, including and consistent with other WREGIS loss accounting requirements~~the facility~~.

considered an addition or enhancement if it is able to be registered in WREGIS as a generator and create RECs.

3.6.2 ~~2.~~ Eligible Renewable Resources as Electricity Inputs

Facilities that use~~tilize~~ electricity inputs from other eligible renewable energy resources, including eligible pumped storage hydroelectric, shall ~~only~~ have only the output electricity eligible for RPS if the electricity inputs used for processing or storage are not also counted towards an RPS compliance obligation or claimed for any other program as renewable generation. The facility itself must use an eligible renewable energy resource to create the final output electricity and demonstrate that it can accurately meter, measure, and account for all energy inputs, consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.21.

~~Energy storage technologies using pumped storage hydroelectric may qualify for RPS if 1) the facility meets the eligibility requirements for conduit hydroelectric, small hydroelectric, or incremental hydroelectric facilities, and 2) the electricity used to pump the water into the storage reservoir qualifies as RPS-eligible. The amount of energy that may qualify for the RPS is the amount of electricity dispatched from the pumped storage facility.~~

~~A facility certified as RPS-eligible may include an electricity storage device if it does not conflict with other RPS-eligibility criteria, but the storage unit itself will not be separately certified.~~

3.7 Facilities With an Air District Permit to Operate

Facilities that are subject to a permit to operate under Title V of the Clean Air Act must submit information regarding their emissions performance when applying for RPS eligibility and upon request by CEC staff. An applicant for a facility that is subject to a permit to operate must demonstrate how their facility will operate within the emissions limit that is assigned in their permit by providing documentation that includes the following information:

a) All permitted emissions limits as determined by their local air quality district
b) The total annual emissions of a facility~~'s total annual emissions~~ broken down by type of pollutant
c) A description of the emissions accounting system of a facility~~'s emissions accounting system~~
d) A description of the emissions control system of a facility~~'s emissions control system~~

CHAPTER 4:
RPS Online System

The Energy Commission developed the RPS Online System for the RPS program to streamline the RPS certification application and reporting processes. The RPS Online System is available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. This chapter provides an overview of the RPS Online System, including the account management, certification application, and reporting processes. Instructions on how to use the RPS Online System are~~is will be made~~ available within the RPS Online System under the "Help" link.[42]

~~Applicants shall use t~~The RPS Online System ~~starting~~ was implemented January 25, 2017, when the *RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition,* ~~takes~~ took effect. The Energy Commission ~~requests~~ requires applicants ~~to~~ submit applications for certification using the RPS Online system. ~~.including supplemental forms using the forms in the RPS Guidebook, Eighth Edition no later than January 6, 2017, to allow time to transition to the RPS Online System. Applications received between January 6, 2017, and January 25, 2017, the adoption date of the RPS Guidebook, Ninth Edition, may be delayed during the transition to the RPS Online System.~~

If the RPS Online System is down for maintenance or there is a systemwide outage and users need to submit applications, reports, and other documents, users may contact RPS staff at **RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov** for assistance.

~~A.~~4.1 Account Management

The RPS Online System ~~will have~~has an account structure for each LSE or facility owner called an "organization." Each organization ~~will have~~has the ability to add or remove individuals called "users" and assign roles such as "applicant," "attestant," or "trainee," with at least one individual assigned as the "Account Holder System Admin." Each role is defined in the RPS Online System instructions.

~~1.~~4.1.1 Account Users

Within the organization account, the users ~~will~~ have permissions based on their assigned role(s). For example, a user may be assigned a role and have the ability to view an application~~,~~ but may not have the ability to attest to an application. All account users ~~will~~ receive notifications within the RPS Online System and email alerts for specific activities taken or due to be taken.

~~2.~~4.1.2 Updating Account Users

Each organization account must have at least one individual assigned to a role that will have the ability to add or remove existing account users and assign roles. If all users on an account

42 Any updates to the RPS Online System instructions do not need to be adopted by the Energy Commission as the instructions are procedural and do not include RPS requirements not specified in the guidebook.

are no longer valid, a separate account will need to be created, and the existing account will be inactivated in the RPS Online System.

~~B.~~4.2 Submission of Certification Application

All applications ~~will~~ must be completed and submitted through the RPS Online System. An authorized user will complete the application for the organization and either submit the application or alert the attestant to attest and submit the application. The Energy Commission ~~staff will~~ reviews all submitted applications~~. If additional information or clarifications are needed, Energy Commission staff will shall notify the organization~~. Once an application is received by the Energy Commission, the applicant can no longer edit the submitted application. If additional information, corrections, or clarifications are needed, the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ shall notify the organization to make the necessary changes~~unless the application is unlocked by staff for corrections~~. When an update or eligibility decision is made, appropriate users associated with the organization's account will receive a notification. All submitted applications can be printed or saved to the user's computer for record keeping.

~~1.~~4.2.1 Amending an Approved Application

An applicant must use the RPS Online System for any change related to a precertified or certified facility~~, including certifying a precertified facility,~~ by selecting the current, approved application for the facility, making the necessary changes, and submitting the amended application. This amended application will become the current application for the facility. ~~Once an application is received by the Energy Commission, t~~The applicant can no longer edit the ~~submitted~~ amended application once it's been submitted. For more information on amendments, see Chapter 5.2 Amending an RPS Certification.

~~2.~~4.2.2 Withdrawing a Facility

An applicant who requests to withdraw a precertified or certified facility from the RPS program ~~will~~shall do so in the RPS Online System. Once a request has been submitted, the Energy Commission will be notified, and the eligibility status of the facility will be changed after staff verify the reason for the withdrawal of the facility~~'s withdrawal~~.

~~3.~~4.2.3 Change in Facility Ownership

For a facility that has changed ownership ~~or operation~~ and should no longer be maintained under the original organization account, a representative of the new owner ~~or operator will~~ must submit an application to add the facility to an existing organization account or establish a new organization account using the RPS Online system. The new facility owner ~~or operator~~ will be allowed to keep the current eligibility of the facility if the facility still meets the guidebook requirements under which it was certified. This eligibility will include utility-certified facilities (those RPS IDs that have an E suffix).

~~-~~After the application has been received, the Energy Commission will submit a request to the authorized representative(s) of the organization account that~~which~~ previously owned the facility to withdraw the facility from the prior owner's ~~or operator's~~ account. If the previous organization does not withdraw the facility within~~in~~ a reasonable period ~~of time~~, the Energy Commission will confirm the action to be taken by notifying the authorized representatives of

the account and subsequently remove the facility from the original account. The previous organization will no longer be able to submit an amended application for the facility. If the previous organization withdraws the facility beforeprior to the new application submittal, the new facility owner will have 180 days from the date of the withdrawal to submit a new application in order to and retain the original eligibility date.

C.4.3 Submission of Annual and Compliance Reports

An authorized individual must submit the applicable annual reports (multi-fuel and biomethane generators and LSEs[43]) and compliance reports (POUs only) usingin the RPS Online System. If clarifications, changes, or additional documentation are needed, the report will be unlocked for the facility owner or LSE's authorized individualentity needing to edit and resubmit the report(s). For more information see Chapter 6: Annual Facility Reports and Chapter 7: Annual Load-Serving Entity Reports. All submitted reports can be printed or saved to the user's computer for record keeping.

43 Retail Sellers have annual and compliance reporting requirements with the CPUC external to the RPS Online System and these requirements are not addressed in this *Guidebook*.

CHAPTER 5:
RPS Certification

The Energy Commission offers two types of RPS certification:

a) Certification: The facility has commenced commercial operations using an eligible renewable energy resource and complies with all applicable requirements of the RPS Guidebook in place when the application is received by the Energy Commission.

b) Precertification: The facility has not commenced commercial operations or is not yet using an eligible renewable energy resource in compliance with this guidebook. The applicant is seeking an initial assessment on whether planned operations of the facility could comply with applicable requirements of the RPS Guidebook in place when the application is received by the Energy Commission. The Energy Commission's approval of a facility for precertification does not and cannot guarantee that a facility will be eligible for certification when the facility commences commercial operations.

~~b)~~

All applications will be evaluated under the RPS Guidebook in place at the time a completed application is received by the Energy Commission. Electricity generation from a facility cannot be counted toward meeting an LSE's RPS procurement requirements ~~unless~~ until the facility is certified by the Energy Commission.

The Energy Commission has incorporated the RPS certification applications and supplemental forms (Microsoft Excel® format) into the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.[44] ~~The RPS Online System is the Energy Commission's application and reporting system for California's RPS program. A user must register and establish an organization account in the system to submit an application for certification, annual facility report, or LSE report.~~

All applications and additional information must be submitted using the RPS Online System in accordance with Chapter 8.1~~A~~.5 Deadlines and Submission Dates.

Any information submitted to the Energy Commission in addition to the required application shall be presented clearly and logically. The Energy Commission will accept documentation created for other purposes (for example, historical contracts or invoices), provided that the applicant:

a) ~~I~~Lists all submitted documents,

b) ~~s~~Summarizes the purpose of each document,

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44 The RPS Online System is the Energy Commission's application and reporting system for California's RPS program. A user must register and establish an organization account in the system to submit an application for certification, annual facility report, or LSE report.

c) ~~i~~Identifies which requirement each document is being submitted to fulfill, and

d) ~~i~~Indicates where in each document the necessary information is contained using the RPS Online System.

An applicant needing to submit sensitive or confidential information to fulfill these requirements may request confidential designation of the record. (For additional information on confidential designation, see Chapter 8.2~~B~~.3 Use and Disclosure of Information and Records.) It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate that the facility represented in the application complies with all applicable requirements of the RPS Guidebook.

Because information submitted to the RPS Online System is publicly accessible and potentially otherwise publicly disclosable, applications should **NOT** contain **ANY** personally identifiable information (PII). Applicants can consider alternatives, such as using a commercial entity or other naming conventions that do not contain PII in their applications.

Facilities are expected to comply with existing laws related to the RPS program ~~goals,~~ including licensing, permitting, and reporting obligations. The Energy Commission may request information to demonstrate that a facility is in good standing with these requirements set by state, federal, and local agencies.

Staff will conduct an initial review to determine if an application is complete and will notify an organization of additional required information or documentation. Staff will not complete its review of an application for a facility until all required information has been received. Any discrepancies in the reported information shall be explained in detail and appropriately supported. Staff may request additional documentation to determine whether the facility meets the eligibility criteria required to be RPS-certified.

~~A.~~5.1 Applications

To submit a certification application using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, an individual must register in the system and establish an organization account. Once the registration is completed and approved, the registered individual will be able to complete and submit an application on behalf of the organization. Only authorized users(s) on the account may submit an application or amended application.

Upon receiving a ~~properly submitted~~complete certification application, the Energy Commission will send the appropriate users associated with the organization confirmation of the receipt of the application. The confirmation will include the RPS ID for the facility and the date the application was received by the Energy Commission. Facilities that have already been assigned an RPS ID will retain that ID for the life of the facility; however, the suffix may change. (See Chapter 5.3 RPS Certification Types for additional information.)

When processing certification applications, the Energy Commission will determine RPS eligibility using any information or records submitted by the applicant or obtained as part of the application review or any audit, as described in Chapter 8.2~~B~~.3 Use and Disclosure of Information and Records.

The applicant may be required to submit additional information or clarify information submitted in or with the application. Requested information must be submitted by an

authorized individual as identified within the organization's account in the RPS Online System. If staff requests the submission of additional information, the applicant will have 60 days to provide the information requested. If the information is not received within 60 days, the application will be deemed incomplete.

After completing its review, the Energy Commission will notify the organization through the RPS Online System of its determination on the application. If an application is approved, the Energy Commission will issue a letter stating that the facility is precertified or certified for the RPS. When a certification application is approved, the Energy Commission will also issue a certificate that will list the Energy Commission-issued RPS ID for the facility (or ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group with the number of facilities in the ~~unit~~group), as well as the total facility or ~~unit~~ group size, fuel or resource type(s), including any nonrenewable resource type(s) (if any), name ~~and/~~or aggregating entity (or both), location, owner/operator of the facility, RPS eligibility date, and other information relevant to the eligibility of the facility or ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group. The certificate will indicate whether the facility or ~~unit~~ group was certified as part of a larger facility, is associated with other generating ~~units~~groups,[45] or is subject to any limits on certification.

Applications for facilities may be approved only for the generation that meets the requirements of this guidebook; additional energy resources used at the facility, or used in an ineligible manner, may not be included in the approval. Moreover, applications for facilities clearly in violation of any requirements will be denied for that reason without further review.

If the applicant disagrees with the Energy Commission's determination on an application, the applicant may submit an amended application with additional information supporting the claim that the facility meets the RPS-eligibility requirements. If the applicant believes the information provided clearly demonstrates that the facility is eligible for certification based on the criteria in the RPS Guidebook in place at that time, the applicant may petition the Energy Commission for reconsideration as described in Chapter 8.3~~C~~ Reconsideration of RPS Certification.

As specified in Chapter 8.2~~B~~.1 Audits, the Energy Commission may conduct periodic or random reviews to verify records submitted for RPS certification.

~~1.~~5.1.1 Facility Status

The Energy Commission will provide a list of all facilities and ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~units~~groups that have been represented in an application and the status of the RPS certification or precertification for each facility.[46] The organization will be notified of the~~its~~ status of its~~their~~ facility or application each time there is a change in the facility or application status. Table 4 identifies the statuses used by the Energy Commission.

Table 4: RPS Facility Statuses and RPS Eligibility

45 For example, in the case of a hydroelectric facility composed of multiple hydroelectric units.

46 Posted online at https://rps.energy.ca.gov.

~~Facility~~ Application Status	Eligible for RPS	Notes
In progress, not submitted	No	The application is being completed and has not yet been submitted to the Energy Commission. Until the application is received by the Energy Commission, it will not be reviewed or considered to be submitted. This status will not be shown on the facilities list made public.
Approved	Yes, if Certified	The facility represented in an application is approved and either certification or precertification has been granted.
Disapproved	No	The facility represented in an application is not eligible for California's RPS, and no generation from the facility may be used to meet RPS procurement obligations. If the facility had been certified, generation before disapproval, or the event resulting in disapproval, may be eligible for the RPS depending on the circumstances of disapproval.
Withdrawn	No, unless reapplied	The applicant for the facility has voluntarily withdrawn the application before completion of the application review, or the applicant has requested an end to the RPS certification of the facility.
Decommissioned	No	The facility represented in an application has ceased to operate, as confirmed by the applicant or the Energy Commission.
Received	Potentially	The application has been received but has not yet been reviewed.
In Corrections	Potentially	Staff has requested more information or clarification from the applicant; the review will not be completed until the requested information is provided. The applicant will have 60 days from receiving corrections request to provide a complete response. If all requested information is not received within 60 days, the application will be determined to be incomplete. Corrections Needed – applicant will see in the RPS Online System that RPS staff is requesting more information or clarification.

~~Facility~~ Application Status	Eligible for RPS	Notes
		Corrections Sent – applicant will see in the RPS Online System that information or clarification was sent to RPS staff.
Pending	Potentially	The application is under review; the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ may make further inquiries or requests for additional information as needed.
Incomplete	No, unless reapplied	The application is deemed incomplete and the review cannot be completed as submitted due to missing or inaccurate information. The facility represented in an application is RPS ineligible unless applicant reapplies and the facility is approved.
Suspended	No, unless ~~reapplied~~resolved	The eligibility of an approved facility represented in an application is in question and the applicant has been contacted for clarification. Once the issues are resolved, the suspension will be lifted, and generation from that facility, including generation occurring during the period of suspension, may be used to meet RPS obligations. Failure to resolve the suspension within a year will result in the disapproval of the facility.

Source: California Energy Commission

Facilities that are RPS-certified at the time of submission of an amended application will retain that RPS certification throughout the review of the amended application, unless the eligibility of the facility ended because the facility no longer satisfies the applicable requirements. In cases where a facility has a certification expiration date and the amended application submitted was deemed incomplete, the applicant has **180 days** to have an approved amended application to retain the original eligibility date.

Generation from facilities with a suspended status may not be used to meet the RPS obligations of any entity until the issues are resolved, which may require the submission of an amended application. If the issues are resolved and the suspension is lifted, generation from that facility, including generation occurring during the suspension period ~~of the suspension~~, may be used to meet RPS obligations.

Generation from facilities that have had the RPS certification disapproved may not be used to meet RPS procurement obligations.

~~2.~~5.1.2 Facility Eligibility

All generation meeting the requirements of this guidebook from certified facilities and produced in the month of the eligibility date or later, and tracked in WREGIS, may be ~~procured by~~applied towards an LSE's ~~to meet its~~ RPS obligations.

~~a.~~5.1.2.1 Eligibility Date

~~(1)~~5.1.2.1.1 Precertification Eligibility Date

The eligibility date for a facility represented in a precertification application will be the date the precertification application is received by the Energy Commission, if the applicant can demonstrate that the following conditions are met:

a) The anticipated facility will use an eligible renewable energy resource as identified in the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time the precertification application is submitted.

b) A completed precertification application is submitted with any supplemental supporting documents available at the time the application is submitted.

~~b)~~

If a complete certification application for a precertified facility is submitted within **180 days** of commencing commercial operations and the requirements of the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time the certification application is submitted are met, the eligibility date will be the precertification eligibility date.

~~(2)~~5.1.2.1.2 Certification Eligibility Date

The eligibility date for a facility represented in a certification application that is received by the Energy Commission within **180 days** of commencing commercial operation will be ~~designated as the~~based on WREGIS eligibility, as stated by the WREGIS Operating Rules, section 5.3,~~date~~ if the applicant can demonstrate that all the following requirements are met:

a) ~~O~~Facility operations ~~of the facility~~ are consistent with those described in the certification application. ~~O~~Facility operations for testing purposes before commercial operations may comply with this requirement if they are consistent with those in the certification application.

b) The facility met the requirements of the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time electricity was generated.

c) Generation from the facility is eligible to be tracked in WREGIS, or retroactive WREGIS Certificates can be created for the generation. (See Chapter 3.1~~A~~.1.1~~a~~ Creation of Retroactive Renewable Energy Credits in WREGIS.)

~~c)~~

All facilities must be certified before eligible generation may be counted for the RPS. Failure to submit an application for RPS certification within 180 days of commercial operations date (COD) will result in the facility not being assigned an eligibility date that aligns with ~~the~~ WREGIS eligibility ~~date~~. Instead, the date the certification application is received by the Energy Commission will be considered the eligibility date. For more information, see Chapter 8.1~~A~~.5~~:~~ Deadline and Submission Dates. Furthermore, facilities represented in a certification application received after 180 days of commencing commercial operations may request an

extension of time or a waiver of the original certification deadline as described in Chapter 8.4~~D~~.3 Extensions of Certification Application Deadlines.

~~(3)~~*5.1.2.1.3 Revisions to the Eligibility Date*

The eligibility date for a facility may be revised for several reasons. If the eligibility date is revised, the applicant will be notified of the new eligibility date. The eligibility date will be revised if any of the following occurs:

a) Denial of an application or the revocation of an existing RPS certification.

b) Changes in the operations of the facility from the planned operations or actual operations as indicated in a previous application. (See Chapter 5.2~~B~~.1~~:~~ Substantial Amendments.)

c) Withdrawal of the RPS certification of a facility or removing a facility from a~~n aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group, affecting only the removed facility.

d) Failure to submit an amended RPS certification or precertification application within **180 days** of a change requiring an amendment. (See Chapter 5.2~~B:~~ Amending an RPS Certification.)

~~d)~~

The revised eligibility date will be the date the first certification application is received by the Energy Commission after the above event, unless the applicant can demonstrate the requirements in Chapter 5.1~~A~~.2.1 Eligibility Date are met.

Generation from a facility that was certified before the revision to the eligibility date may still be used for California's RPS if either:

a) ~~t~~The original certification was appropriately approved and occurred before the event causing the denial or withdrawal of an application, or

b) ~~o~~The generation occurred before the change in operations that required the submission of an amended application.

~~B.~~5.2 Amending an RPS Certification

An authorized individual of an RPS-certified or precertified facility must notify the Energy Commission promptly of any changes in information previously submitted in an application for the facility. Failure to do so within **180 days** of the change will result in the facility losing the RPS certification status, and the applicant will have to reapply, and the facility will be assigned a new eligibility date. Any changes shall be reported on an amended application using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. The amended application shall be submitted and reviewed as described in Chapter 5.1~~A:~~ Applications.

The amendments must be submitted by one of the "authorized individuals" listed under the account in the RPS Online System. If there is a change in the facility owner, see Chapter 4.2~~B~~.3~~:~~ Change in Facility Owner. The Energy Commission will review the amended application and notify the new applicant of its determination.

Revisions to the authorized individuals, or authorized officer or agent, for any certified facility will be made through the RPS Online System under the organization's account.

~~1.~~5.2.1 Substantial Amendments

An amended application with any of the following changes will be reviewed under the edition of the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time the Energy Commission receives the amended application:

a) Change in the anticipated commercial operations date for precertified facilities~~.~~

b) Change in fuel, technology, or energy resource type~~.~~

c) The use of energy storage as identified in Chapter 3.6~~.~~[47]

d) Increase or decrease in nameplate capacity~~.~~

e) For existing common carrier pipeline biomethane facilities, change in fuel suppliers or contract(s) that will affect either the eligibility of a facility or the delivery path for biomethane procured~~.~~

f) Repowering of the facility under provisions in this guidebook to revise the COD for the facility~~.~~

g) The increase in operational nameplate capacity from any existing ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group or removal of any facility within a~~n~~ ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group~~.~~

~~g)~~

~~2.~~5.2.2 Biomethane Contract Amendments

For biomethane facilities with amendments associated with only contract termination or completion, the applicant may submit a signed cover letter verifying the change(s) with supporting documentation to **RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov**. This type of change will not be subject to a full review. A new certificate and accompanying letter will be issued that include the allowable contracts for the certified facility.

~~3.~~5.2.3 Simple Amendments

For all other changes that do not fall either under the 1) Substantial Amendments or 2) Biomethane Contract Amendments sections above, the applicant will send an amended application using the RPS Online System. Supporting documentation validating the change may be requested. This type of amendment will not affect the eligibility date of the facility~~'s eligibility date~~. An updated certificate will be issued that reflects the correction or change.

~~C.~~5.3 RPS Certification Types

The Energy Commission uses a suffix for the different types of RPS certification, depending on the facility operations, contractual obligations, and applicant preference. Each type of RPS

47 If the certification of an existing facility is being amended to add an energy storage device, only the energy storage device and metering requirement will be reviewed based on the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time an amended application is received by the Energy Commission.

certification may require the use of a specific application (for example, ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group application). Table 5 describes the different types of application for RPS certification and the suffix used for each.

Table 5: Summary of RPS ID Suffix

Suffix	Represents	Eligible for the RPS
A	Certification	Yes. There are no eligibility restrictions unless specified.
C	Precertification	No, must apply for certification after COD of the facility
R	~~Aggregated~~ Distributed generation ~~unit~~group	Yes. There are no eligibility restrictions unless specified. See Chapter 5.3~~C~~.2.
M	Certification for biomethane using both new and existing contracts	Yes, with eligibility restrictions. See Chapter 5.3~~C~~.1.1~~a~~.
No Longer Offered	**Represents**	**Eligible for the RPS**
B	Certification and Supplemental Energy Payments (SEPs)	These are no longer offered.
D	Precertification and Supplemental Energy Payments (SEPs)	These are no longer offered.
E	Utility certification	These are no longer offered, but several certifications retain the suffix indicating the utility representing the certified facility for the duration of the original utility contract specified in the certification. See Chapter 5.3~~C~~.1.2~~b~~.
F	Certification for biomethane using only existing contracts	These are no longer offered, but several certifications retain the suffix indicating the biomethane facility special requirements. See Chapter 5.3~~C~~.1.1~~a~~.
G	Precertification for biomethane using only existing contracts	These are no longer offered.
H	Historic carryover certification	These are no longer offered, but several certifications retain the suffix indicating the original RPS eligibility. Once the *2011~~-~~–2013 RPS Verification Report* is adopted, these facilities will be disapproved.

L	Limited certifications	These are no longer offered.
N	Precertification for biomethane using both new and existing contracts	These are no longer offered.
P	POU Precertification	These are no longer offered.

Source: California Energy Commission

~~1.~~5.3.1 Individual Facilities

An applicant seeking RPS certification of a facility must apply using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~. The facility must be operated independently from any other RPS-certified facility and registered separately in WREGIS.[48] A facility that has never been represented in an application is assigned a six-digit RPS identification number, consisting of five numerical digits followed by a single-~~-~~letter suffix. See Table 5 for information on the applicable suffix.

In the case where a facility will be built in phases that have different commercial operations dates for each phase, the applicant has an option to submit an application within **180** days of COD for each phase separately or submit an amended certification application within **180 days** of COD for **each** phase to procure the generation from the facility. A facility built in phases that applies as a single facility will receive the earliest COD for the entire facility, regardless of when the entire facility commences commercial operations and attains the total nameplate capacity.

~~a.~~5.3.1.1 Existing Common Carrier Pipeline Biomethane

A facility that was RPS-certified using only an existing biomethane procurement contract(s) will be RPS-certified on a limited basis. The facility will not remain RPS-certified after the contract termination date or after the facility has used the quantities of biomethane specified in the original contract, as determined by the Energy Commission.

A facility certified using eligible biomethane sources under both an existing biomethane procurement contract(s) and a new biomethane procurement contract(s) will retain RPS certification after the existing biomethane contract termination date, or after the facility has

48 A small hydroelectric facility may consist of multiple hydroelectric units, some of which may be operated independently and registered and approved with WREGIS separately. These units, however, may still be considered part of the small hydroelectric facility "project" for determining RPS eligibility.

used the quantities of biomethane specified in the original contract, as determined by the Energy Commission. However, the applicant will be issued a new letter and certificate with a new suffix to remove the existing biomethane source(s). See Table 5 for information on the applicable suffix.

~~b.~~5.3.1.2 Old RPS Certification Types

The Energy Commission previously used RPS certification types that are no longer assigned to facilities but are still in use by existing applicants, specifically:

a) Facilities serving multijurisdictional utilities: Facilities exclusively serving a multijurisdictional utility (MJU) were not subject to the location and interconnection facility requirements of Chapter 3.3~~C:~~ Location Requirements, pursuant to a former Public Utilities Code Section 399.17. Only the generation procured by the MJU was considered RPS-eligible unless the facility submits an amended application to certify the facility on its own behalf.

b) Utility-certified facilities: Utility-certified facilities were granted certification for only the generation procured under a specific contract by the retail seller submitting the application. Only the generation procured by the retail seller identified in the application may be used to meet California's RPS requirements.

~~b)~~

Facilities previously RPS-certified in one of these categories may retain that RPS certification, unless otherwise specified, until the contract with the identified utility ends, the contract is revised for utility certifications,[49] or a change in the facility operations or contracting parties requires an amended application, whichever is earliest. If the facility owner, or authorized individual thereof, applies for RPS certification within **180 days** of the contract termination or revision date, the new RPS certification will retain the existing eligibility date. If another LSE plans to procure electricity from a facility with one of these certifications, the facility owner, or agent thereof, must submit an amended application and all applicable RPS certification information using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, demonstrating compliance with this guidebook.

~~2.~~5.3.2 ~~Aggregated Units~~Distributed Generation Groups

An applicant seeking RPS certification of a group of distributed energy facilities as part of a~~n aggregated unit~~distributed generation group, referred to as an *aggregated unit* in previous editions of the guidebook, shall submit an ~~aggregated~~ application using the RPS Online System. ~~Aggregated units~~Distributed generation groups are generally treated as a single facility in the RPS program. An application for a~~n aggregated unit~~distributed generation group will not be approved unless all facilities in the ~~unit~~ group are eligible. If the Energy Commission determines that one distributed generation~~energy~~ facility in an approved ~~unit~~ group is not RPS-eligible, the applicant shall have **30 days**, once notified, to submit an amended application that removes any ineligible facilities from the ~~aggregated unit~~distributed generation group, or

49 Any revision to a contract will be considered a renegotiation, will void the previously awarded utility certification, and will require the submission of an amended certification application.

the entire ~~unit~~ group will ~~lose its~~be disapproved ~~certification~~. The ~~aggregated unit~~distributed generation group shall:

a) Be registered and approved in WREGIS as a single distributed generation ~~Aggregation Project~~group,[50] and all facilities that are part of the WREGIS Distributed Generation Group~~Aggregation Project~~ are included in the ~~aggregated unit~~distributed generation group application.

b) Be commercially operational.

c) Contain only facilities using the same renewable energy resource.

d) Generate electricity using either wind or solar photovoltaic.

~~e) Contain only facilities that meet one of the following:~~

~~1) Have received benefits from a ratepayer-funded incentive program.~~

~~2) Participate in a net metering tariff with an LSE.~~

~~3) Primarily serves onsite load.~~

~~f)~~e) Include only facilities meeting all RPS eligibility requirements.

~~g)~~f) Have a total aggregated ~~unit~~ nameplate capacity not exceeding 250 kW for the initial application, allowing growth up to a maximum of 360 kW.

g) Have all generation facilities within a group interconnect to the same balancing authority.

~~h)~~

Distributed generation groups **may** contain facilities that either:

- Have received benefits from a ratepayer-funded incentive program.~~;~~.
- Participate in a net metering or similar customer service tariff with an LSE.~~; or.~~
- Primarily serve onsite load.

~~Aggregated units~~Distributed generation groups that have never been represented in an application are assigned a six-digit RPS identification number, consisting of five numerical digits followed by a single-letter suffix of "R." Facilities in the unit will be assigned a five-digit identifier, consisting of four numerical digits followed by a single-letter suffix of "A" for certification so the extended RPS ID number for a facility in a~~n~~ ~~aggregated unit~~distributed generation group will have the format #####R-####A.

For large ~~groups~~batches of distributed generation ~~units~~groups seeking to apply in bulk, users may contact the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ at **RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov** for assistance.

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50 See the WREGIS Operating Rules Appendix D: Distributed Generation Groups,~~F: Small Scale Aggregation. https://www.wecc.org~~biz/~~program-areas/wregis~~WREGIS/Pages/Default.aspx~~https://www.wecc.org~~biz/program-areas/wregis~~WREGIS/Pages/Default.aspx~~.

CHAPTER 6:
Annual Facility Reports

Some applicants shall report to the Energy Commission annually on the operations of the facility for the previous calendar year. All annual facility reports must be submitted using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, on or before the applicable reporting deadline.

The annual reports for a given calendar year are due ~~on~~ **April 1** of the subsequent year.

Any documentation submitted to the Energy Commission in support of the required annual reports must be presented clearly and logically. The Energy Commission will accept documentation created for other purposes (for example, historical contracts or invoices), provided that the applicant lists all documents being submitted, briefly summarizes the purpose of each document, identifies what requirement each document fulfills, and indicates where each document contains the necessary information (for example, page number). **An applicant should redact all information that is not required and may be considered confidential by the applicant.** An applicant may request confidential designation of records. (See Chapter 8.2~~B~~.3~~:~~ Use and Disclosure of Information and Records.) It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that the facility represented in the submitted documentation complies with all applicable requirements of the *RPS Guidebook*.

The Energy Commission ~~staff~~ will not begin to review the eligibility of generation from a facility that is required to submit information on the annual operations of the facility until after the applicant has submitted the necessary information. Any discrepancies in the reported information must be explained in detail and supported with documentation. The Energy Commission ~~staff~~ may request additional documentation to determine whether, and what amount, of the generation of the facility may be counted for the RPS for a given year.

~~A.~~6.1 Generator Information

An applicant or authorized individual of a certified facility shall report information on the facility generation to the Energy Commission using the Generation (Gen) report within the RPS Online System, if any of the following is true:

a) Any generation from the facility is tracked outside WREGIS in a calendar year, and that generation meets the requirements to be reported outside WREGIS through a WREGIS Adjustment. (See Chapter 7.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ WREGIS Adjustments.)

b) The facility used more than one energy resource in a calendar year. (See Chapter 3.2~~B~~~~:~~ Renewable Facilities Using Multiple Energy Resources.) An authorized individual shall also submit both of the following:

   1) Detailed information necessary to determine compliance with the approved measurement method. In some cases, this could include information on the time of energy resource consumption and generation of electricity.

2) The information submitted to WREGIS related to fuel use, if applicable.

c) The Energy Commission requests submission of facility generation data. An applicant must fulfill this request once notified of the request within the period stated in the request.

~~c)~~

The Energy Commission may request that an authorized individual of the facility submit payment statements or other documentation supporting the information provided in the RPS Online System, available at (https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx). The authorized individual shall have no more than **30 days** to fulfill this request once notified of the request.

~~B.~~6.2 Common Carrier Pipeline for Biomethane

The applicant for a certified facility using common carrier pipeline biomethane during the previous calendar year shall provide the following information annually using the Common Carrier Pipeline (CCP) report within the RPS Online System:

a) Monthly meter data for the injection point of the biomethane source on the delivery pipeline.

b) Monthly pipeline nomination reports for each pipeline and storage site along the delivery path.

c) Monthly invoices for the procurement of the biomethane.

d) Monthly meter data showing the combined total use, and documentation showing the monthly quantities in million British thermal units (MMBtu) of all biomethane and nonrenewable energy resources at the generating facility.

e) A summary statement and supporting documentation of all biomethane associated with, or planned to be delivered to, the certified facility remaining in a storage site at the close of the calendar year. Biomethane quantities not identified in the summary report for a certified facility may not be used for the RPS later.

f) Any additional documentation necessary for the Energy Commission to determine nonrenewable energy resource use based on the energy resource measurement method included in the certification of the facility, including the information submitted to WREGIS related to energy resource use. An example of additional documentation may include meter data for the monthly generation at the certified facility and monthly invoices for the procurement of the natural gas used at the certified facility.

g) Contract(s) for the transportation of biomethane through the common carrier pipeline; if no contract exists due to the ownership of the pipeline, alternative documentation may be submitted. If this contract has already been provided to the Energy Commission and has not been subsequently amended, a letter confirming this will suffice. Contract(s) or additional documentation shall include:

1) The point of receipt, where the biomethane enters the pipeline or begins transportation under the specific contract.

2) The point of delivery, where the gas exits the pipeline, enters storage, or is no longer being transported under the specific contract.

3) Any limitations on the maximum quantity of gas that can be delivered in a specific period, for example, daily, monthly, yearly.

h) The biomethane procurement contract. If this contract has already been provided to the Energy Commission and has not been subsequently amended, a letter confirming this will suffice.

~~h)~~

The Energy Commission may request that the facility applicant submit payment statements or other documentation supporting the biomethane claims. Failure to provide adequate supporting documentation will result in the associated RECs being deemed ineligible.

Verification of CCP biomethane claims in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, will be conducted on either a WREGIS ID or RPS ID level, depending on the reporting entity's preference. In special cases, the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ may ask for biomethane inputs to be reported in a different manner but still consistent with the reporting requirements in the guidebook. For example, a combined-~~-~~cycle facility registered with multiple WREGIS IDs may need to report all inputs for that combined-~~-~~cycle system under one WREGIS ID.

~~C.~~6.3 Functionally Dedicated Pipeline for Biomethane

The applicant for a certified facility using biomethane delivered in a functionally dedicated pipeline during the prior calendar year shall report the following information annually using the CCP report within the RPS Online System:

a) Information on outages or shutdowns at the facility, the biomethane source, and the pipeline that affect the ability of the facility to use the biomethane including:
   1) The amount of biomethane injected into the pipeline and the amount withdrawn at the electrical generating facility.
   2) The time and date of the outage.
   3) The quantity of biomethane injected into the pipeline that may not have been delivered to the facility due to the outage.

b) Any instances in operations that are not consistent with the operations plan submitted as part of the certification.

c) Any revised or updated operations plans, as applicable.

~~c)~~

Verification of functionally dedicated pipeline biomethane claims in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, will be conducted on either a WREGIS ID or RPS ID level, depending on the reporting entity's preference. In special cases, the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ may ask for biomethane inputs to be reported in a different manner but still consistent with the reporting requirements in the guidebook. For example, a combined-~~-~~cycle facility registered with multiple WREGIS IDs may need to report all inputs for that combined-cycle system under one WREGIS ID.

CHAPTER 7:
~~Annual~~ Load-Serving Entity Annual Reports

Load-serving entities (LSEs) shall report retirement of RECs for the California RPS to the Energy Commission annually on July 1 for the previous reporting year. The Energy Commission uses the retirement information to verify the claims an LSE plans to use to satisfy its RPS procurement requirements~~., and to~~ The retirement information is also used to ensure that a REC is counted only once for compliance with the California RPS, for the regulatory requirements of any other state, or to satisfy any other retail, regulatory, or voluntary market claim.[51] Retirement of RECs not tracked in WREGIS can be effectuated by submittal of a WREGIS Adjustment request within the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, under limited circumstances. (See Chapter 7.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ WREGIS Adjustments.)

LSEs must submit all reports and supporting documentation to the Energy Commission using the RPS Online System on or before the reporting deadline.

~~Annual POU compliance reports for a given calendar year are due on July 1 of the subsequent year.~~

Any documentation submitted to the Energy Commission in addition to or in support of the required reports must be presented ~~in a~~ clearly and logically. The Energy Commission will accept documentation created for other purposes (for example, historical contracts or invoices), provided that the LSE lists all submitted documents, summarizes the purpose of each document, identifies which requirement each document fulfills, and indicates where in each document (for example, page number) the necessary information is contained. LSEs needing to submit sensitive or confidential information to fulfill these requirements may request confidential designation of records. (See Chapter 8.2~~B~~.3~~:~~ Use and Disclosure of Information and Records.) It is the responsibility of the LSE to demonstrate that all REC retirements comply with all applicable requirements of the *RPS Guidebook.*

The Energy Commission will review the eligibility of retirement claims made by an LSE after the LSE representative has submitted all necessary information. Discrepancies in the reported information must be explained in detail and supported with adequate documentation. The Energy Commission may request additional documentation to determine whether, and what amount of, RECs claimed by the LSE may be counted for the RPS.

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51 Use of a REC for compliance with the California RPS does not preclude an LSE's ability to report a specified import or use the RPS adjustment in accordance with the California Air Resources Board's "California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms to Allow for Use of Compliance Instruments Issues by Linked Jurisdictions and Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions" (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 95801~~—~~96022 and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 95100~~—~~95158). See https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/title-17/division-3/chapter-1/subchapter-10/article-5.

~~A.~~7.1 Reporting Procurement Claims

LSEs are required to use WREGIS to report REC claims to the Energy Commission, except in limited instances as described in Chapter 7.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ WREGIS Adjustments. Some generation procurement structures may also require third parties to be registered in WREGIS. The LSE RPS claim information shall be reported as follows:

a) For all generation tracked by WREGIS, the following reports shall be submitted:
   1) WREGIS Compliance Report: For RPS retirement information, this information shall be submitted to the Energy Commission through WREGIS and not directly from the LSE.
   2) WREGIS Attestation: This attestation covers all information submitted to the Energy Commission through WREGIS and shall be submitted directly to the Energy Commission. The WREGIS Attestation can be found in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

   LSEs must send all WREGIS reports to the Energy Commission by email to **RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov** and sign the WREGIS attestation in the RPS Online System for the WREGIS report(s) submitted.

   WREGIS reports must be completed in WREGIS and be submitted to the Energy Commission through WREGIS. Information on the report can be found online at www.wregis.org/program-areas/wregis, and training slides can be found online at ~~https://www.wecc.biz/TrainingAndEducation/Pages/WREGIS.aspx~~ https://www.wecc.org/WREGIS/Pages/Default.aspx.

   The Energy Commission will not begin processing any submitted reports until the RPS Online System attestation is signed.

b) For generation not tracked in WREGIS and not required to be reported in WREGIS, see Chapter 7.1~~A~~.2~~:~~ WREGIS Adjustments. Both the REC(s) and facility generation data shall be submitted using the RPS Online System.

~~b)~~

~~1.~~7.1.1 WREGIS Retirement Accounts

When retiring and reporting information in WREGIS, LSEs shall use specific retirement subaccounts using specified naming formats. The subaccounts used by an LSE will vary for different types of LSEs:

a) Retail sellers
b) POUs interconnected to a CBA: POUs that do not meet the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 399.18 or 399.30 (h)~~.~~
c) POUs not interconnected to a CBA: POUs that meet the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 399.18 or 399.30 (h) and have demonstrated this pursuant to the *Enforcement Procedures for the Renewables Portfolio Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities* (*POU Regulations*)~~.~~

~~a.~~7.1.1.1 Retail Sellers

Retail sellers retire all claims into one retirement subaccount for each reporting year. This subaccount shall be named using the following format:

[Reporting Year (YYYY)] CA RPS RTSL

For example, the required subaccount name for RECs retired and reported by a retail seller for 2025 is:

2025 CA RPS RTSL

~~b.~~7.1.1.2 POUs Interconnected to a CBA

POUs that do not meet the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 399.18 or 399.30 (h) shall, based on REC type, retire RECs into one of the following ~~four~~seven retirement subaccounts for each reporting year. These ~~four~~seven retirement subaccounts are used to preliminarily classify RECs into the Portfolio Content Categories (PCCs) and Long-Term Procurement Requirement (LTR) classifications ~~WREGIS Certificates into the Portfolio Content Categories (PCCs)~~. Failure to retire RECs into the appropriate WREGIS subaccount or failure to follow this guidance for subaccount naming may lead to delays in the verification of claims.

Table 6 specifies the possible PCC codes for each retirement subaccount.

Table 7 specifies the possible LTR codes for each retirement subaccount.

Table 8 includes all seven possible combinations of PCC and LTR conventions within retirement subaccount naming.

Table 6: PCC Codes for POUs in CBAs

Portfolio Content Category (PCC)	Code
Count in Full RECs	PCC0
Portfolio Content Category 1 RECs	PCC1
Portfolio Content Category 2 RECs	PCC2
Portfolio Content Category 3 RECs	PCC3

Source: California Energy Commission

Table 7: LTR Codes for POUs

Long-Term Procurement Classification	Code

Long-term	LT
Short-term	ST

Source: California Energy Commission

Table 8: PCC and LTR Code Conventions for POUs Interconnected to CBAs

PCC0 LT	PCC1 LT PCC1 ST	PCC2 LT PCC2 ST	PCC3 LT PCC3 ST

Source: California Energy Commission

PCC 0 RECs shall be classified as long-term (LT) only, pursuant to *POU Regulations* Section 3204(d)(2)(J). When amendments to PCC 0 contracts result in a change to the PCC classification of RECs procured under the contract, as specified in *POU Regulations* Section 3202(a)(2)(B), the RECs must then be classified into the appropriate PCC and LTR status.

POUs interconnected to a CBA shall use the following format to name WREGIS subaccounts:

[Reporting Year (YYYY) CA RPS [PCC code] [LTR code]

For example, the subaccount name for PCC 1 RECs from a qualifying long-term contract retired and reported for 2025 is:

2025 CA RPS PCC1 LT

~~These subaccounts shall be named using the following format:~~

~~[Reporting Year (YYYY)] CA RPS [PCC code]~~

~~The PCC code for each retirement subaccount is specified in Table 6.~~

~~Table 6: PCC Codes for POUs in CBAs~~

~~Portfolio Content Category (PCC)~~	~~Code~~
~~Count in Full RECs~~	~~PCC0~~
~~Portfolio Content Category 1 RECs~~	~~PCC1~~
~~Portfolio Content Category 2 RECs~~	~~PCC2~~
~~Portfolio Content Category 3 RECs~~	~~PCC3~~

~~Source: California Energy Commission~~

For additional information on ~~the~~ PCCs, see the *POU Regulations*.

~~c.~~7.1.1.3 POUs Not Interconnected to a CBA

POUs that meet the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 399.18 or 399.30 (h) shall retire RECs into one of the following ~~three~~five retirement subaccounts for each reporting year. These ~~three~~five retirement subaccounts are used to preliminarily classify ~~WREGIS Certificates~~RECs for verification. These subaccounts shall be named using the following format:

Table 9 specifies the possible subaccount codes for each retirement subaccount.

Table 10 specifies the possible LTR codes for each retirement subaccount.

Table 11 specifies the five possible combinations of subaccount type and LTR conventions within retirement subaccount naming.

Table 9: Subaccount Codes for POUs Outside CBAs

Subaccount Type	Code
Count in Full RECs	PCC0
Bundled RECs	BNDL
Unbundled RECs	TREC

Source: California Energy Commission

Table 10: LTR Codes for POUs

Long-Term Procurement Classification	Code
Long-term	LT
Short-term	ST

Source: California Energy Commission

Table 11: Subaccount and LTR Conventions for POUs Outside CBAs

PCC0 LT	BNDL LT BNDL ST	TREC LT TREC ST

Source: California Energy Commission

POUs not interconnected to a CBA shall use the following format to name WREGIS subaccounts:

[Reporting Year (YYYY)] CA RPS [Subaccount code] [LTR code]

For example, the subaccount format for bundled RECs from a qualifying long-term contract retired and reported for 2025 is:

2025 CA RPS BNDL LT

~~[Reporting Year (YYYY)] CA RPS [Subaccount Code]~~

~~The subaccount type code for each retirement subaccount is specified in Table 7.~~

~~Table 7: Subaccount Codes for POUs Outside CBAs~~

~~Subaccount Type~~	~~Code~~
~~Count in Full RECs~~	~~PCC0~~
~~Bundled RECs~~	~~BNDL~~
~~Unbundled RECs~~	~~TREC~~

~~Source: California Energy Commission~~

For additional information on these classifications for POUs meeting the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 399.18 or 399.30 (h), see the *POU Regulations.*

~~2.~~7.1.2 WREGIS Adjustments

WREGIS Adjustments are a mechanism for accommodating differences between the WREGIS and CA RPS programs. Effective January 1, 2014, generation amounts that qualify as a WREGIS ~~A~~Adjustment may be reported to the Energy Commission to be included in the verification. Amounts submitted by POUs and verified by the Energy Commission will be subject to the compliance rules established under the *POU Regulations*. Amounts submitted by retail sellers and verified by the Energy Commission are subject to the CPUC's RPS compliance rules.[52] ~~under CPUC Decision 12-06- 038, or any subsequent CPUC decision.~~ Requests for WREGIS adjustments will be considered only up until the verification reports for that compliance period have been adopted by the Energy Commission.

When submitting supporting documentation, all WREGIS report adjustments must be clearly marked within the screenshot of the WREGIS report being submitted to show when the adjustment was executed. Additionally, the documentation must contain an explanation for why the WREGIS adjustment request has been submitted. WREGIS adjustment requests and supporting documentation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis since each adjustment is unique.

~~a.~~7.1.2.1 Prior Period Adjustments

52 See RPS Compliance Rules and Process.

When a discrepancy is identified between actual generation and a WREGIS Certificate for a generation month, the WREGIS system makes a prior period adjustment to correct the WREGIS Certificate total. A prior period adjustment will result in either the overproduction or underproduction of the current vintage of WREGIS Certificates. LSEs should claim procurement to reflect the actual generation amounts of the facility, regardless of the vintage date(s) on the WREGIS Certificates.

If the prior period adjustment affects WREGIS Certificates that have already been retired, the LSE may submit a letter to the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ withdrawing the claims to prevent the claims from being found ineligible. The LSE may submit a letter requesting that the withdrawn RECs be reallocated to the year in which WREGIS is withholding creation of WREGIS certificates because of~~due to~~ the prior period adjustment. If the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ approves the reallocation of the RECs, the LSE will report the REC claims as a WREGIS Adjustment in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

LSEs shall submit supporting documentation to the Energy Commission explaining the discrepancy between WREGIS Certificate creation and actual generation, and the use of the prior period adjustment to correct this discrepancy.

~~b.~~7.1.2.2 Other WREGIS Adjustments

LSEs may submit a WREGIS Adjustment to report generation not tracked in WREGIS by submitting a request using the RPS Online System, subject to the following requirements:

a) The facility is registered and approved in WREGIS during the time the RECs in question are generated.
b) The facility is certified as RPS-eligible at the time the RECs in question are generated.
c) The correction cannot be made in WREGIS due to restrictions within the WREGIS Operating Rules, for example, the WREGIS Prior Period Adjustments process.
d) The WREGIS Adjustments shall not be used to report generation or procurement data from ~~aggregated generating~~distributed generation ~~units~~groups.
e) The LSE that reports the generation using the WREGIS Adjustments shall comply with all other requirements set forth in this guidebook and in the POU Regulations, as applicable.

If the request is approved, RECs must be reported using the WREGIS Adjustment in the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~.

~~B.~~7.2 Additional POU Reporting Requirements

The Energy Commission ~~is tasked with verifying~~determines POU compliance with the RPS ~~procurement~~ requirements, as specified in the *POU Regulations*. To demonstrate compliance with these requirements, POUs shall report ~~general~~ procurement and contractual information using the RPS Online System.

In support of the procurement and contractual information provided, POUs shall submit their procurement contracts or ownership agreements and any additional documentation necessary

to demonstrate to the Energy Commission's satisfaction~~,~~ that the electricity product meets applicable PCC criteria and other requirements of the POU Regulations. For RECs that are resold or originally procured by a different entity, the POU shall demonstrate that both the original procurement contract and the resale contract satisfy the requirements of the POU Regulations.

POUs shall initially classify the RECs they procure when retiring the RECs. (See Chapter 7.1~~A.1:~~ WREGIS Retirement Accounts for information on specific retirement accounts.) The POUs' initial classification is nonbinding. For all count-in-full,[53] PCC 1, and PCC 2 electricity products, the REC vintage shall not precede the contract execution or the ownership agreement date. ~~Furthermore, RECs cannot be counted for a reporting year earlier than the vintage year of the RECs.~~

~~1.~~7.2.1 Scheduled Delivery of Electricity

As specified in the *POU Regulations*, electricity products from facilities not interconnected to a CBA that meet specific schedule requirements may qualify as PCC 1 or PCC 2 electricity products. POUs shall submit supporting documentation on the scheduling arrangements as part of their annual and compliance period reports.

To demonstrate that electricity was scheduled into a CBA, PCC 1 and PCC 2 RECs retired from these facilities shall be accompanied by relevant e-Tag[54] data and in certain cases hourly data, as detailed in Table 12.

Table 12: Documents Required for Scheduled Delivery of Electricity

REC Category	Schedule Method[55]	Required Documents	Annual WREGIS Report on July 1st	Annual e-Tag Report on July 1st	Annual Hourly Report on July 1st
PCC 1	A schedule on an hourly or subhourly basis	Procurement contract	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Dynamic transfer-pseudo-tie on an hourly or subhourly basis	Procurement contract Pseudo-tie agreement	Yes	No	No

53 See Section 3202~~-~~(a)(2) of the *POU Regulations*.

54 See Glossary of Terms for definition.

55 For a description of types of interchange scheduling (the scheduling of imports/exports across an intertie between two Balancing Authority Areas), including static scheduling and dynamic transfers (dynamic schedule and pseudo-ties), please see the CAISO webpage on Intertie Scheduling.

	Dynamic transfer-dynamic schedule on an hourly or subhourly basis	Procurement contract	Yes	Yes	No
PCC 2	Firmed and shaped within the same calendar year	Procurement contract	Yes	Yes	No

Source: California Energy Commission

E-Tag and hourly data shall be reported ~~RECs retired from these facilities shall be accompanied by e-Tag data demonstrating that electricity was scheduled into a CBA,[56]~~ using ~~one of~~ the following methods:

a) ~~e~~E-Tag data must be submitted using one of the two following methods:

1) ~~For all generation e-Tag[57] data tracked in WREGIS, the CA e-Tag Report must be submitted to the Energy Commission.~~ For e-Tag data not available in WREGIS, POUs must submit the e-Tag Report Form[58] (Schedule 3 Form) within the RPS Online System. Note: The Energy Commission prefers POUs use the Schedule 3 Form even if e-Tag data is available in WREGIS.[59]~~.~~

2) ~~For generation e-Tag data not available in WREGIS, data can be submitted using the eTag report within the RPS Online System. Available for use only to POUs.~~ For e-Tag data tracked in WREGIS,[60] the CA e-Tag Report can be submitted to the Energy Commission.

b) ~~For electricity that is scheduled using standard hourly or subhourly scheduling (not dynamic transfer), h~~Hourly data must be submitted using the Hourly ~~r~~Report Form[61]

~~56 WREGIS cannot pull e-Tag information from generation and schedules that have occurred in the past; thus parties must sign up for this service in WREGIS before commencing scheduled deliveries of electricity. See www.wecc.orgbiz/WREGIS.~~

~~57 See Glossary of Terms for definition.~~

58 E-Tag Report Form link: ~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4084~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4084 and e-Tag Report Instruction link: ~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4082~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4082.

59 Using the Schedule 3 Form is a more streamlined and efficient process because the form is tailored to the RPS Online system requirements.

60 WREGIS cannot pull e-Tag information from generation and schedules that have occurred in the past; thus, parties must sign up for this service in WREGIS before commencing scheduled deliveries of electricity. See https://www.wecc.org/wecc-document/1151.

61 Hourly Report Form link: ~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4085~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4085 and Hourly Report Instruction link: ~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4083~~https://www.energy.ca.gov/media/4083.

(Schedule 4 Form) within the RPS Online System, available at (https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx). Available for use only to POUs.

~~b)~~

Where additional information is needed to verify electricity was scheduled into a CBA, including for dynamic scheduling and pseudo-tie facilities, the Energy Commission may request additional reporting, such as e-Tag or hourly data for scheduling arrangements not routinely required to report this information. In all cases, the REC(s) and the accompanying e-Tag(s) shall be from the same calendar year, and the e-Tag(s) shall identify the facility that produced the RECs by either including the RPS ID for the facility in the miscellaneous field, listing the facility name as the source on the e-Tag, or both.

For PCC 1 RECs for which the associated electricity must be scheduled into a CBA under the *POU Regulations*, under a static schedule or dynamic transfer (including dynamic schedule and pseudo-tie)~~schedule~~, the electricity scheduling arrangement shall be from the facility without the substitution of electricity from another source. Beginning January 2014, the e-Tags for these scheduling structures shall identify the certified facility as the source point of the electricity. The Energy Commission may~~will~~ audit the electricity scheduling arrangements by requesting the submission of select e-Tags.

~~2.~~7.2.2 Sales From Existing Hydroelectric Generation Units Operated as Part of a Water Supply or Conveyance System

A POU that meets the criteria of Public Utilities Code Section 399.30 (j) shall report annually to the Energy Commission on all sales of electricity bundled with the associated RECs to other POUs from hydroelectric generation units certified for the RPS under Chapter 2.6.3 of this guidebook. Annual reports shall address only sales of bundled electricity and RECs that are eligible for the RPS by the procuring POU~~LSE~~~~utility~~. By July 1 of each year, the POU shall submit in the RPS Online System an annual report to the Energy Commission that includes the information in paragraphs (a) – (c) below for all bundled electricity and RECs sales from certified hydroelectric generation units made in the prior calendar year.

a) The name and RPS identification number of each certified generation unit from which bundled electricity or RECs were sold.
b) The quantity of bundled electricity or RECs sold, in megawatt-hours, from each certified generation unit per month for the previous calendar year.
c) The name, contact information, and mailing address of the POU that purchased bundled electricity or RECs from the certified generation unit.

~~C.~~7.3 RPS ~~Procurement~~ Verification

The Energy Commission will verify procurement claims made by each LSE for each compliance period. In its analysis, the Energy Commission will ensure:

a) A REC claimed by an LSE represents generation from a certified facility that is eligible to be used for an LSE's RPS obligation, and no other REC represents the same generation.

b) No REC is claimed by more than one LSE for California's RPS.

c) A REC claimed by an LSE for California's RPS is not used any other competing purpose.

LSEs may be required to submit supporting documentation to verify procurement from facilities or demonstrate that the LSE has not also claimed RECs in another program. The Energy Commission may use any information or records submitted to the Energy Commission or obtained in cooperation with other agencies or voluntary markets to verify compliance with the RPS, as described in Chapter 8.2~~B~~.3~~:~~ Use and Disclosure of Information and Records.

The Energy Commission ~~staff~~ will analyze annual REC retirement data submitted by the LSEs and work with the LSEs to resolve any outstanding questions or issues, which may include clarifying or correcting retired RECs. As part of the verification process, staff's initial analysis of the REC retirement data will be made publicly available after notifying and working with the LSEs to resolve outstanding questions or issues. An LSE may unretire previously retired RECs or retire additional RECs beyond those initially reported to the Energy Commission consistent with WREGIS rules and other requirements, including but not limited to the 36-month REC retirement rule. Retired RECs may be unretired within one year of the REC retirement date[62] or prior to the final determination of REC eligibility for all LSEs, whichever occurs first. Additional RECs beyond those initially reported to the Energy Commission may be retired prior to the final determination of REC eligibility for all LSEs.

Following the end of each compliance period, the Energy Commission will combine the analysis for each reporting year within the compliance period and evaluate the combined data. The Energy Commission ~~staff~~ will then prepare the following reports on its findings:

a) RPS Retail Sellers ~~Procurement~~ Verification Results Report: The Energy Commission findings on the procurement claims made by retail sellers. This report will be supplied to the CPUC, which regulates retail sellers.

b) RPS POU ~~Procurement~~ Verification Results Reports: The Energy Commission findings on the procurement claims made by POUs. A report will be issued for each POU and will be used to inform the Energy Commission compliance determinations for POUs.

Retail sellers, POUs, and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments on the draft RPS verification reports. Public comments will also be taken into consideration during the process used to finalize these reports. Upon finalization and approval by the Energy Commission, these reports will be made public.

~~D.~~7.4 Withdrawing Surplus Retired RECs From a Specified Compliance Period to Be Used for the Following Compliance Period

62 See WREGIS Operating Rules Section ~~16~~15.2.

An authorized representative of a POU[63] may request from the Energy Commission's executive director approval to withdraw surplus retired RECs from a specified RPS compliance period and use them for the POU's following RPS compliance period if all of the following conditions are met:[64]

a) The POU or WREGIS account holder representing the POU shall be registered and in good standing with WREGIS at the time of the request.

b) The surplus retired RECs in question shall be "surplus," meaning that they are in excess of what the POU would need to satisfy its RPS procurement target and portfolio balance requirements for the RPS compliance period for which the RECs were retired.

c) The surplus retired RECs in question shall be tracked in WREGIS and retired into the POU's WREGIS retirement account.

d) The surplus retired RECs in question must be retired during the RPS compliance period immediately following the compliance period for which the RECs were surplus.[65]

e) If the request is approved, the surplus retired RECs in question may be applied only to the POU's RPS compliance period immediately following the compliance period for which the RECs were retired.

f) Surplus retired REC may be used to satisfy a POU's RPS procurement requirements for only one RPS compliance period.

g) A POU request shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director at the following address, or emailed to~~at~~ PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov:

California Energy Commission

Office of the Executive Director

715 P~~1516 9~~th Street~~, MS 39~~

Sacramento, CA 95814~~-5512~~

h) A POU request shall include:

1) The name and address of the POU.

2) The name and address of the authorized POU representative submitting the request.

3) The year(s) within the specified RPS compliance period from which the surplus retired RECs will be withdrawn.

4) The years(s) within the immediately following RPS compliance period where the surplus retired RECs will be used.

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63 For retail sellers, the CPUC will make all compliance determinations.

64 The process for withdrawing surplus retired RECs was adopted by the Energy Commission on March 9, 2016, by Resolution No. 16-0309-04a.

65 For example, the RECs were retired in March 2014 to satisfy the POU's RPS requirements for the 2011–2013 compliance period but were in excess of what the POU needed to satisfy its RPS requirements for the 2011–2013 compliance period. If the request is approved, the surplus RECs must be applied to the 2014–2016 compliance period.

5) The WREGIS Certificate serial numbers of the surplus retired RECs, which will be withdrawn from the specified RPS compliance period and used for the immediately following RPS compliance period.

6) An explanation of the circumstances that gave rise to the request.

7) A description of the financial consequences or other consequences to the POU if the request is denied.

8) Documentation, if available, to support the information provided in items (b) through (g).

9) An attestation by the authorized POU representative declaring that the information contained in the request and any supporting documentation is true, correct, and complete to the best of the representative's knowledge.

i) If a request is incomplete, the executive director may either request additional information or return the request unprocessed.

j) The executive director may approve a POU's request to withdraw surplus retired RECs from one RPS compliance period and use them for the immediately following RPS compliance period, if the director finds the POU has demonstrated that good cause exists for approving the request. In determining whether good cause exists, the executive director may consider, without limitation, whether the POU was diligent in submitting a request upon learning that a mistake was made when retiring RECs, whether the POU's failure to correct the mistake in a timely manner was caused by circumstances beyond its control, and whether the POU will suffer financial consequences or other hardships if the request is denied.

k) The executive director shall not approve a POU's request to withdraw surplus retired RECs from one RPS compliance period and use them for the immediately following RPS compliance period under any of the following circumstances:

1) The request was submitted to the executive director after the Energy Commission has adopted the verification report for the RPS compliance period in which the surplus retired RECs in questions were retired.

2) The request, if approved, would allow the POU to use the surplus retired RECs in question to satisfy its RPS procurement requirements for multiple RPS compliance periods.

3) The request, if approved, would allow the POU or another party to use the surplus retired RECs in question to satisfy the renewables portfolio standard of another state or provincial government, or to satisfy another regulatory program or renewable energy obligation, or to satisfy a renewable obligation under a voluntary program.

l) The request, if approved, shall not exempt the POU from complying with any other RPS requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility and reporting requirements of the RPS Guidebook and any requirements of the POU Regulations, as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3200, et seq., including the 36-month retirement restriction for RECs and excess procurement limitation pursuant to Sections 3202 (c) and 3206 (a)(1), respectively.

~~I)~~

~~E.~~7.5 Special Consideration of Biomethane Procurement Contracts

This chapter reflects changes in law that were enacted under Assembly Bill 2196 and codified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.6. If the requirements of this guidebook are satisfied, the procurement of electricity products by a retail seller or POU from an electrical generation facility using biomethane is eligible to count toward the RPS procurement requirements in place at the time the biomethane procurement contract was executed by a retail seller or POU.

The RPS procurement requirements are established for retail sellers and POUs in Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code, as enacted by Senate Bill X 1-2 (Stats. 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., ch.1), which draws a distinction for procurement contracts for electricity products executed before June 1, 2010, and contracts executed on or after this date.[66]

SB X1-2 generally requires retail sellers and POUs to satisfy the procurement requirements of Article 16 by procuring electricity products that 1) meet one of the three Portfolio Content Categories specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16(b) and were procured under contracts executed on or after June 1, 2010, (generally referred to "PCC procurement") or 2) were procured under contracts executed before June 1, 2010, and satisfy the conditions of Public Utilities Code Section 399.16(d) (generally referred to as "count in full procurement"). Hence, SB X1-2 draws a distinction between procurement contracts for electricity products executed before June 1, 2010, and procurement contracts executed on or after this date.

Compliance with RPS procurement requirements for retail sellers, including classification of Portfolio Content Categories and Portfolio Balance Requirements, is determined by the CPUC under its Decision 11-12-052, Decision 12-06-038, Decision 19-06-023 or any future CPUC decision.

Compliance for POUs is determined by the Energy Commission under the POU Regulations.[67] For POUs, the Energy Commission will consider the dates of execution of the biomethane procurement contract and power purchase agreement (PPA) or ownership agreement in determining whether the electricity procurement qualifies as either PCC procurement or count-in-full procurement, provided all other requirements are satisfied. Each PPA or ownership agreement and biomethane procurement contract will generally fall into one of the following classifications:

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66 Assembly Bill 2187 (Bradford, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2012) subsequently amended the law to make a further distinction for electric service providers. Under AB 2187, an electric service provider must satisfy the procurement requirements of Article 16 by procuring electricity products that meet one of the three Portfolio Content Categories specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16 (b) and were procured under contracts executed after January 13, 2011. Under CPUC Decision 14-12-023, ordering paragraph 1, RECs from contracts executed by electric service providers before January 14, 2011, will be treated the same way as RECs from contracts executed by investor-owned utilities and community choice aggregators before June 1, 2010, for compliance with the portfolio balance requirements of Public Utilities Code Section 399.16 (c).

67 See http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/pou_rulemaking/.

a) Both the biomethane procurement contract and PPA or ownership agreement were executed on or after June 1, 2010; the procurement should be classified as PCC procurement.

b) The PPA or ownership agreement was executed before June 1, 2010, and specifies that the procurement of generation under the contract or agreement is attributable to biomethane, regardless of the biomethane procurement contract execution date; the procurement should be classified as count--in--full procurement.

c) The PPA or ownership agreement was executed before June 1, 2010, but it does not specify that the procurement of generation under the contract or agreement is attributable to biomethane. If the biomethane procurement contract was executed before June 1, 2010, then the procurement should be classified as count in full. If the biomethane procurement contract was executed on or after June 1, 2010, then the procurement should be classified as PCC procurement.

d) Both the biomethane procurement contract and PPA were executed before June 1, 2010; the procurement should be classified only as count-in-full procurement.

~~d)~~

A copy of the PPA or ownership agreement executed by a POU for procurement of electricity generation attributed to biomethane and a copy of the biomethane procurement contract~~, with any sensitive or confidential information redacted from each of these agreements,~~ must be submitted to the Energy Commission with an RPS certification application for ~~RPS certification of~~ the ~~electrical generation~~ facility designated to use the biomethane. Any sensitive or confidential information from these agreements should be redacted. If the facility is already RPS-certified, the PPA or ownership agreement and biomethane procurement contract(s) should have been submitted with ~~the submission of~~ the existing biomethane supplemental information form, the CEC-RPS-2196, which is no longer available for use, within 90 days of the adoption of the Seventh Edition of the RPS Eligibility Guidebook for the facility to retain its RPS status.

The PPA or ownership agreement must convey:

a) The PPA or ownership agreement execution date.

b) Sufficient environmental attributes that are transferred to the POU to ensure that there are zero net emissions associated with the production of electricity from the generating facility using the biomethane. The term "zero net emissions" shall be applied in a manner consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.6 (c) and the CPUC's Standard Term and Condition 2, which applies to Bioenergy Transactions as specified in CPUC Decision 13-11-024.

~~b)~~

The biomethane procurement contract for each biomethane source must demonstrate:

a) The biomethane procurement contract execution date and term.

b) The biomethane sources that are specified in the contract. For facilities using biomethane that are certified under Chapter 2.3~~C~~.3.1~~a~~.~~(~~1~~)~~: Existing Biomethane

Procurement Contract, the biomethane sources may be specified in the RPS certification application submitted to the Energy Commission before March 29, 2012.

c) The contracted quantity of biomethane in MMBtu from each source, which may include the full output or a percentage of the full output from each source~~,~~ and the specific time frame for biomethane deliveries.

d) All renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production, capture, and injection of the biomethane are transferred in whole to the electrical generating facility using the biomethane.

CHAPTER 8: Administration

This chapter describes the protocol used by the Energy Commission to administer the RPS program.

~~A.~~8.1 General Provisions

This section provides information on the authority, interpretation, and effective date of the RPS Guidebook, as well as the process for making substantive changes to the RPS Guidebook and applicable deadlines and submission dates.

~~1.~~8.1.1 Authority

The RPS Guidebook is adopted under Public Resources Code Section 25747, subdivision (a), which directs the Energy Commission to adopt guidelines governing the programs authorized by Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 and portions of the RPS under Public Utilities Code Section 399.25. The guidelines adopted under this authority are exempt from the formal rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, as specified in Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. The RPS Guidebook may be revised under Public Resources Code Section 25747, subdivision (a).

~~2.~~8.1.2 Interpretation

Nothing in the RPS Guidebook shall be construed to abridge the powers or authority of the Energy Commission or any Energy Commission-designated committee as specified in Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, commencing with Section 25000, or Division 2 of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with Section 1001.

~~3.~~8.1.3 Effective Date

Unless specified otherwise by the Energy Commission, the RPS Guidebook shall take effect upon adoption by the Energy Commission at a publicly noticed business meeting following Public Resources Code Section 25747, subdivision (a). The RPS Guidebook may be given retroactive effect as specified by the Energy Commission and according to statutory authority.

~~4.~~8.1.4 Substantive Changes

The Energy Commission may make substantive changes to the RPS Guidebook under Public Resources Code Section 25747, subdivision (a). Unless specified otherwise by the Energy Commission, substantive changes shall take effect upon adoption by the Energy Commission at a publicly noticed business meeting with no fewer than 10 days public notice. Substantive changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the RPS eligibility or evaluation criteria.

~~5.~~8.1.5 Deadlines and Submission Dates

Submissions will meet the specified deadlines in the guidebook if they are submitted electronically using the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, and they are time stamped by the RPS Online System

or e-mail, at or by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time Zone on the due date. Submissions that are not properly submitted using the RPS Online System or are lost in transit will not be deemed submitted on time. If the due date falls on a weekend or state holiday, the due date becomes the next business day.

~~B.~~8.2 Records and Audits

This section provides additional information on audits, record retention, and use and disclosure of information and records by the Energy Commission.

~~1.~~8.2.1 Audits

The Energy Commission or its authorized agents may audit any awardee to verify the accuracy of any information included as part of an application or report required under the RPS Guidebook. As part of an audit, the Energy Commission may require an awardee to provide the Energy Commission or its authorized agents with all information and records necessary to verify the accuracy of any information included in the awardee's applications or reports. An awardee may also be required to open its business records for on-site inspection and audit by the Energy Commission or its authorized agents to verify the accuracy of any information included in the awardee's applications and reports.

If an audit finds that an awardee has incorrectly stated or falsified information included on the awardee's applications or reports or is unable to furnish evidence supporting the information included in the awardee's applications or reports, the Energy Commission shall notify the awardee of its findings in writing within 30 days of completing the audit. Based on the audit results, the awardee's RPS certification may be revoked under Chapter 8.4.1: Revocation of RPS Certification~~, and~~/, or a verification claim may be listed as ineligible, or both.

~~2.~~8.2.2 Record Retention

Awardees shall keep all records relating to and verifying the accuracy of any information included in an application for RPS certification or report submitted under the RPS Guidebook. These records shall be kept for no fewer than five years after the end of the calendar year in which the awardee's RPS certification is approved or the report submitted under to the RPS Guidebook, whichever is longer. These records shall be made available to the Energy Commission or its authorized agents as part of any audit conducted under the RPS Guidebook.

~~3.~~8.2.3 Use and Disclosure of Information and Records

The Energy Commission or its authorized agents may use any information or records submitted to the Energy Commission or obtained as part of any audit under the RPS Guidebook to determine eligibility and compliance with the RPS Guidebook, verify and assess an entity's RPS procurement and compliance status, evaluate the RPS or related Energy Commission program, ensure facilities and applicants comply with existing laws related to the RPS program, including licensing, permitting, and reporting obligations, or prepare necessary reports as required by law.

~~-~~The information and records include, but are not limited to:~~,~~

a) ~~a~~Applications for RPS certification and any documentation submitted in support of said applications;

b) ~~d~~Documents submitted to substantiate procurement or generation claims;

c) ~~a~~Any other documentation submitted upon request of the Energy Commission;

d) ~~p~~Publicly available information and documents;

e) ~~i~~Information submitted to other state, federal, or local agencies;

f) ~~i~~Information submitted to voluntary renewable energy markets; and

g) ~~a~~Any other documents provided to or obtained by the Energy Commission.

Information and records submitted under the RPS Guidebook will be disclosed to other governmental entities and policing authorities for civil and criminal investigation and enforcement. This information and records may also be disclosed to the public under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code). ~~(Government Code Section 6250, et seq.).~~ Personal information, such as taxpayer identification or social security numbers, will not be disclosed to the public.

Information concerning the identity of awardees is public information and will be disclosed pursuant to the California Public Records Act. This information, along with other public information describing program participants, may be disclosed to members of the public to educate them and encourage further program participation. The information may be disclosed through the Energy Commission's website or other means, as the Energy Commission deems appropriate.

~~If, a~~As part of any application for RPS certification, required report, or audit, the Energy Commission may require~~s~~ the awardee to provide copies of records. If ~~that~~ the awardee believes these records contain proprietary information entitled to protection under the California Public Records Act or other law, the awardee may request that such records be designated confidential under the Energy Commission's regulations for confidential designation, Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 2505.

~~C.~~8.3 Reconsideration of RPS Certification

Under Public Resources Code Section 25747, applicants and awardees of RPS certification may appeal the Energy Commission's denial or revocation of RPS certification under the RPS Guidebook. Appeals will be considered as provided in this section only upon a showing that factors other than those described in the RPS Guidebook were applied by the Energy Commission in denying or revoking RPS certification.

~~1.~~8.3.1 Executive Director Reconsideration

An applicant or awardee may petition the executive director for reconsideration if his or her application for RPS certification was denied or the RPS certification revoked. The petition for reconsideration shall be in writing and shall be submitted, together with any supporting documentation, to the Office of the Executive Director at the following address, or emailed

to~~at~~ RPSTrack@energy.ca.gov, within 30 days of the date of the notice of RPS certification denial or revocation.

California Energy Commission
Office of the Executive Director
~~1516 9th~~715 P Street~~, MS-39~~
Sacramento, CA 95814~~-5512~~

The petition shall:

a) S~~s~~pecify the basis for the appeal;~~,~~

b) S~~s~~tate why the petitioner believes the RPS certification denial or revocation is improper given the eligibility criteria for RPS certification;~~,~~

c) E~~e~~xplain any supporting documentation filed with the petition;~~,~~

d) I~~i~~dentify any legal authority or other basis supporting the petitioner's position;~~,~~ and

e) ~~-~~I~~i~~dentify the remedy sought~~.~~

If the petition for reconsideration is complete, the executive director shall direct staff to evaluate the petition. Within 30 days of receiving a complete petition, the executive director shall provide a written response to the petition that identifies the action the executive director is taking and the basis for that action. This action may include:

a) ~~1)~~ ~~d~~Denying the petition based on the lack of merit, lack of jurisdiction, or insufficient evidence;

b) ~~2) c~~Conducting further investigation;

c) ~~3) c~~Correcting or modifying prior staff action; or

d) ~~4) t~~Taking other appropriate action, including rejecting the petition for being incomplete.

If the executive director denies the petition for lack of merit, lack of jurisdiction, or insufficient evidence, the petitioner may appeal the denial to the Energy Commission in accordance with Chapter 8.3~~C~~.2~~:~~ Energy Commission Appeals.

~~2.~~8.3.2 Energy Commission Appeals

If an applicant's petition for reconsideration is denied, the petitioner may file a letter of appeal to the Energy Commission chair within 30 days of the date of the executive director's written response denying the petition. The letter of appeal shall be submitted to the Energy Commission chair and processed as an appeal from a request for investigation under the Energy Commission's regulations in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1232.5. The letter of appeal shall state the basis for challenging the executive director's denial. In addition, the letter of appeal shall include a copy of the petition for reconsideration, all supporting documentation submitted with the petition, and a copy of the executive director's written response.

Within 45 days of the filing of a complete letter of appeal, the Energy Commission chair shall issue a written order sustaining the Executive Director's denial, modifying it, overturning it, or referring the matter to an Energy Commission committee or the full Energy Commission for further evaluation.

An applicant or awardee seeking to file a petition for reconsideration or appeal under this section may contact the Public Adviser's Office for information on the filing process. The contact information for the Public Adviser's Office is:

California Energy Commission
Public Adviser's Office
~~1516 9th~~715 P Street~~, MS-12~~
Sacramento, CA 95814~~-5512~~
email: **PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov**

~~D.~~8.4 Special Provisions

The executive director, or the executive director's designated agent, may take the following actions to protect the integrity and intent of the RPS program.

~~1.~~8.4.1 Revocation of RPS Certification

The Energy Commission, through its executive director, may revoke the RPS certification of any awardee if it is determined that the RPS-certified facility no longer satisfies the requisite eligibility requirements under the guidebook in place when certification was approved~~. or~~ RPS certification of a facility make also be revoked if the facility violates existing laws related to the RPS program, including failure to comply with licensing, permitting, and reporting regulations set by state, federal, and local agencies. The executive director shall notify the awardee in writing of the basis for revoking the awardee's RPS certification and the effective date of the revocation. The written notice required by this subsection shall be given at least 15 days before the effective date of the revocation.

~~2.~~8.4.2 Fraud and Misrepresentation

The executive director may initiate an investigation of any awardee or LSE that the executive director has reason to believe may have misstated, falsified, or misrepresented information in applying for RPS certification or reporting any information required by the RPS Guidebook. Based on the results of the investigation, the executive director may take any action deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to, cancellation of RPS certification and, with the concurrence of the Energy Commission, recommending the Attorney General initiate an investigation and prosecution as appropriate under applicable law.

~~3.~~8.4.3 Extensions of Certification Application Deadlines

An applicant for RPS certification may request from the Energy Commission's executive director an extension of time to submit a complete application for RPS certification. The executive director, or designee, is authorized to extend and waive application deadlines for RPS certification based on the following criteria and process:

a) A request for extension of time shall be submitted using the Time Extension Request within the RPS Online System, available at ~~(~~https://rps.energy.ca.gov/Login.aspx~~)~~, with a cover letter attached to the request. A request for a time extension shall be made only once for a generating facility or ~~unit~~ distributed generation group regardless of the outcome of the request.

b) A request for an extension of time shall include the following information:

1) The name and address of the applicant and the name, location, and other identifying information of the electrical generation facility for which the applicant has or will seek RPS certification, including any certification or precertification ID numbers issued by the Energy Commission and any WREGIS registration numbers.

2) The amount of additional time being requested for the applicant to submit a complete application for RPS certification or an amended application for RPS certification, as applicable, unless the request for a time extension includes a completed application for certification or amended certification.

3) An explanation of the circumstances why the applicant is or was unable to submit a timely application for certification ~~and/~~or supporting documentation (or both) by the deadline specified in the RPS Guidebook, and whether these circumstances were beyond the applicant's control.

4) An explanation of the financial consequences or other consequences to the applicant ~~and/~~or facility owner or operator (or a combination) if a time extension is not granted.

5) An explanation of any other good cause that exists for granting the time extension.

6) Documentation, if available, to support the information provided in items (1) through (5).

c) If a request for a time extension is incomplete, the executive director may either request additional information from the applicant or return the request unprocessed.

d) The executive director may grant an extension of time if he or she finds that the applicant has demonstrated that good cause exists for granting a time extension. In determining whether good cause exists, the executive director may consider, without limitation:~~,~~

1) W~~w~~hether the applicant was diligent in submitting a request for a time extension upon learning that an application deadline was missed;~~,~~

2) W~~w~~hether the applicant's failure to submit a timely application for certification was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the applicant;~~,~~ and

~~d)~~3) W~~w~~hether the applicant or facility owner or operator will suffer financial consequences or other hardships if a time extension is not granted.

e) The extension of time granted by the executive director shall be limited to that time reasonably necessary for the applicant to submit a complete application for certification.

f) A time extension ~~of time~~ shall not exempt the facility from complying with all eligibility requirements of this guidebook, such as registration in WREGIS and metering requirements.[68]

g) A time extension ~~of time~~ shall not be granted under any circumstances that would waive or excuse any of the eligibility dates specified in this guidebook.~~, such as~~ Examples include the eligibility dates to qualify under the category for existing biomethane procurement contracts in Chapter 2.3.2.1.1 of this guidebook, or the eligibility dates to qualify under the category for small hydroelectric in Chapter 2.6.1 of this guidebook.

h) A time extension ~~of time~~ shall not be granted under any circumstances that would allow an applicant to circumvent changes under pending RPS Guidebook revisions, or receive a benefit that is not provided in the RPS Guidebook under which the facility actually submitted an application for certification. Applicants shall be subject to the RPS Guidebook requirements in place when an application for certification is submitted to the Energy Commission.

i) The executive director's approval of a time extension ~~of time~~ may include the conditions under which the Energy Commission ~~staff~~ may amend the applicant's certification, if previously granted, to reflect the extended application deadline and any corresponding change in the applicant's RPS eligibility date.

~~i)~~

~~4.~~8.4.4 Extensions of Reporting Due Dates

The executive director may, if good cause exists, extend a due date for the submission of a report required under this guidebook. A request for extension of reporting due date shall be submitted in writing to the executive director at the following address, or emailed to~~at~~ PublicAdvisor@energy.ca.gov:

California Energy Commission

Office of the Executive Director

~~1516 9th~~715 P Street
~~, MS-39~~
Sacramento, CA 95814~~-5512~~

68 Any RECs created because of an approval of a time extension request may count toward RPS compliance if WREGIS Operating Rules and other requirements are met, including, but not limited to, the 36-month REC retirement rule.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Additional electricity resource — an electricity input that is either grid electricity or another source that is not an eligible renewable energy resource and may be used to charge an energy storage device.

~~***Aggregated unit*** — a group of small electrical generation facilities that are treated as a single electrical generation facility for RPS certification.~~

Appropriation — consistent with Water Code Section 1201, the right to use a specified quantity of water from any surface streams or other surface bodies of water, or from any subterranean streams flowing through known and definite channels.

Awardee – ~~A~~an individual or entity awarded RPS certification for an electrical generation facility, under the *RPS Guidebook.* An awardee includes both the facility owner and the authorized officer or agent that applied for the facility certification on behalf of the facility owner.

Balancing authority — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (b), to mean the responsible entity that integrates LSE resource plans ahead of time, maintains load- interchange-generation balance within a balancing authority area, and supports interconnection frequency in real time.

Balancing authority area — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (c), for the RPS, to mean the collection of generation, transmission, and loads within the metered boundaries of the area within which the balancing authority maintains the electrical load-~~-~~resource balance.

Beneficial use — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sections 659 through 672, to include the following uses of water: domestic use, irrigation use, power use, municipal use, mining use, industrial use, fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement use, aquaculture use, recreational use, and heat control use.

Biodiesel — a renewable fuel derived in whole or in part from a biomass feedstock such as agricultural crops or agricultural wastes and residues, including, but not limited to, animal wastes, remains, and tallow; food wastes, recycled cooking oils, and pure vegetable oils; or from an eligible solid waste conversion process using municipal solid waste.

Biomass — any organic material not derived from fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, agricultural crops, agricultural wastes and residues, waste pallets, crates, dunnage, manufacturing, construction wood wastes, landscape and right-of-way tree trimmings, mill residues that result from milling lumber, rangeland maintenance residues, biosolids, sludge derived from organic matter, wood and wood waste from timbering operations, biomass black liquor, and any fuel that qualifiesy as "biomass conversion" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40106. Agricultural wastes and residues include, but are

not limited to, animal wastes, remains, and tallow; food wastes; recycled cooking oils; and pure vegetable oils.

Biomethane — ~~L~~landfill gas or digester gas, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 25741 and Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.6, subdivision (g).

California balancing authority (CBA) — consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12~~-~~(d) and California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (f), means a balancing authority located primarily in California with more than 50 percent of the end-use electric load physically located within the political boundaries of California. This definition includes balancing authority areas operated by the California Independent System Operator Corporation, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Balancing Authority of Northern California, Imperial Irrigation District, and Turlock Irrigation District.

California state waters —— offshore territory generally 3 nautical miles out from California's coastal baseline extending north to Oregon and south to Mexico as detailed in the Submerged Lands Act ~~(cite) (~~of 1953~~)~~ (43 U.S.C. Section 1301 et seq.) and United States v. California, 574 U.S. 105 ~~(cite)~~(2014), within which California ~~is entitledwas~~ is granted title to all lands, minerals, and other natural resources underlying the Pacific Ocean.

Capacity — the actual or potential ability to perform relating to flow, power, energy, and so forth. For the production of electricity, see "nameplate capacity."

Commercial operations date (COD) — the date on which an electrical generation facility ceases to generate electricity for testing purposes and first generates electricity solely for consumption by the facility or any customer or for sale to any procuring retail seller or POU; also referred to as "commenced operation date" in WREGIS.

Common carrier pipeline — a gas conveyance pipeline that is owned or operated by a utility or gas corporation, excluding a dedicated pipeline.

Compliance period — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.30, subdivision (b).

Compliance report — the report that each POU files with the Energy Commission ~~by July 1 of the calendar year~~ following the end of the compliance period, as specified in 20 CCR Section 3207.

Conduit hydroelectric facility — a hydroelectric facility that uses only the hydroelectric potential of an existing pipe, ditch, flume, siphon, tunnel, canal, or other man-made conduit that is operated to distribute water for a beneficial use. The term "existing" is defined as built before January 1, 2008, the effective date of Assembly Bill 809 (Blakeslee, Chapter 684, Statutes of 2007).

Dedicated pipeline — a gas conveyance pipeline that is not part of a common carrier pipeline system, which conveys biomethane from specific biomethane producer(s) to a specific electrical generation facility and to no other end users and for no other use. A ***functionally dedicated pipeline*** is a gas conveyance pipeline that is not part of a common carrier pipeline system, which, due to operational constraints imposed on the

biomethane source(s), gas conveyance pipeline, and the electrical generation facility, will convey biomethane from specific biomethane producer(s) to a specific electrical generation facility and to no other end users and for no other use.

Digester gas — gas created by the anaerobic digestion of organic materials.

Distributed generation facility —– a single generating resource as part of a larger distributed generation group.

Distributed generation group —– a group of individual distributed generation facilities that are treated as a single electrical generation facility for RPS certification.

Diversion — consistent with Water Code Section 5100, subdivision (b), the taking of water by gravity or pumping from a surface stream or subterranean stream flowing through a known and definite channel, or other body of surface water, into a canal, pipeline, or other conduit and includes impoundment of water in a reservoir.

Electricity product —– consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~j~~m), means either (1) electricity and the associated renewable energy credit generated by an eligible renewable energy resource or (2) an unbundled renewable energy credit.

Eligible renewable energy resource — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~k~~n), means an electrical generating facility that the Energy Commission has determined meets the definition of a ”renewable electrical generation facility” in Section 399.12 (e) of the Public Utilities Code, including a facility satisfying the criteria of Section 399.12.5 of the Public Utilities Code, and has certified as an RPS-certified facility.

Energy Commission —– State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. Also referred to as the California Energy Commission.

Energy storage device – equipment that~~which~~ receives, stores, and delivers energy for conversion to electricity.

e-Tag — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~e~~t), means an electronic record that contains the details of a transaction to transfer energy from a source point to a sink where the energy is scheduled for transmission across one or more balancing authority area boundaries. For ~~purposes of~~ this definition, “source point” refers to the generation source of the energy, and “sink” refers to the balancing authority in which the electric load is located. Previously referred to as a “NERC e-Tag.”

Exclusive ~~e~~Economic ~~z~~Zone —– the area of the ocean, generally extending 200 nautical miles beyond a nation’s territorial sea, within which the nation has jurisdiction over ~~both~~ living and nonliving resources.

Executive Director — the executive director of the Energy Commission~~,~~ or ~~his or her~~their designee.

Facility — see “project.”

Fossil fuel — fuel consisting of hydrocarbon constituents, including coal, petroleum, or natural gas, occurring in and extracted from underground deposits and mixtures or by-products of these hydrocarbon constituents.

Fuel cell — an energy conversion device that combines hydrogen with oxygen in an electrochemical reaction to produce electricity.

Geothermal — natural heat from within the earth, captured for production of electric power.

Grid electricity — generic electricity from the electrical transmission and distribution system linking electrical generation facilities to customers.

Historic Carryover – consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~m~~p), means a POU's procurement that satisfies the following criteria: 1) the procurement is for electricity and the associated renewable energy credit generated in 2004~~–~~–2010 by an eligible renewable energy resource that met the Energy Commission's RPS eligibility requirements in effect when the original procurement contract or ownership agreement was executed by the POU; 2) the original contract or ownership agreement was executed by the POU prior to June 1, 2010; and 3) the procurement is in excess of the sum of the 2004~~–~~–2010 annual procurement targets defined in Title 20, Section 3206 (a)(5)(D) and was not applied to the RPS of another state or to a voluntary claim.

Hydroelectric — a technology that produces electricity by using the kinetic energy of flowing or falling nonmarine water to turn a turbine generator.

Kilowatt *(kW)* —1,000 watts of electricity.

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Landfill gas — gas produced by the breakdown of organic matter in a landfill (composed primarily of methane and carbon dioxide) or the technology that uses this gas to produce power.

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Local publicly owned electric utility (POU) — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 224.3 to mean a municipality or municipal corporation operating as a "public utility" furnishing electric service as provided in Section 10001 of the Public Utilities Code, a municipal utility district furnishing electric service formed under Division 6 (commencing with Section 11501 of the Public Utilities Code), a public utility district furnishing electric

services formed under the Public Utility District Act set forth in Division 7 (commencing with Section 15501 of the Public Utilities Code), an irrigation district furnishing electric services formed pursuant to the Irrigation District Law set forth in Division 11 (commencing with Section 20500) of the Water Code, or a joint powers authority that includes one or more of these agencies and that owns generation or transmission facilities, or furnishes electric services over its owners' or its members' electric distribution system.

Megawatt (MW) — 1,000,000 watts (W).

Megawatt-hour (MWh) — 1,000,000 watt-hours (Wh). A unit of energy equivalent to one megawatt of electricity supplied for one hour. Compliance with the RPS is measured in this unit of energy.

Metered — the independent measurement with a standard meter of the electricity generated by an electrical generation facility.

Multijurisdictional utility (MJU) — for the Renewables Portfolio Standard, an electrical corporation with 60,000 or fewer customer accounts in California as of January 1, 2010, and that serves retail end-use customers outside California, is not under the control of a California balancing authority, receives the majority of its electrical requirements from generating facilities located outside California, and is subject to the provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 399.17.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) — solid waste as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40191.

Nameplate capacity — the maximum rated electrical power output of a generator under specific conditions designated by the manufacturer.

NERC e-Tag — see "e-Tag."

~~***Net energy metering*** — an agreement or tariff that compensates or credits a customer generator for the electricity it produces in excess of the customer's on-site electricity consumption, usually during a 12-month period.~~

Ocean thermal — refers to technology that uses the temperature differences between deep and surface ocean water to produce electricity.

Ocean wave — refers to a technology that uses ocean waves to produce electricity.

Ownership agreement — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~p~~u), and for POUs only, includes (1) an agreement between a POU and a third party to acquire or develop ~~an~~ part or all of an electrical generation facility or (2) if the POU ~~built~~ developed and owns part or all of the electrical generation facility and ~~therefore~~ has no such agreement with a third party, the arrangement by which the POU ~~built~~ developed the facility.

Paired energy storage — an energy storage device that has the capability to be charged directly from an eligible renewable energy resource behind a single point of interconnection.

Photovoltaic (PV) — a technology that uses a semiconductor to convert sunlight directly into electricity via the photoelectric effect.

Point of interconnection —— the substation where radial lines from a given facility first come under the authority of WECC.

Portfolio balance requirement (PBR) -— consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~q~~w), refers to the portfolio content category minimum and maximum requirements specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16.

Portfolio Content Category (PCC) — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (~~r~~x), refers to one of three categories of electricity products procured from an eligible renewable energy resource.

POU —— see "local publicly owned electric utility."

Procure — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (f), means to "acquire through ownership or contract."

Project — refers to a group of one or more pieces of generating equipment and ancillary equipment necessary to interconnect to the transmission grid that is unequivocally separable from any other generating equipment or components. For hydroelectric facilities under the RPS program, a "project" is two or more sets of generating equipment that are within a one-mile radius of each other and are either 1) contiguous, such as the use of the same impoundment, or 2) share common control or maintenance facilities and schedules, except in the following circumstances:

1) A certified conduit hydroelectric facility, ~~certified as a conduit hydroelectric facility and~~ not a small hydroelectric facility, may be considered a separate project even though the facility itself is part of a larger hydroelectric facility, provided that the larger hydroelectric facility commenced commercial operations prior to January 1, 2006; and the conduit hydroelectric facility commenced commercial operations on or after January 1, 2006, does not cause an adverse impact on instream beneficial uses or cause a change in the volume or timing of streamflow; is separately metered to identify the generation; and is separately certified as RPS-eligible by the Energy Commission. A conduit hydroelectric facility certified as a small hydroelectric facility may not be part of a larger project without considering the capacity of the entire project in the certification.
2) A hydroelectric generation unit with a nameplate capacity not exceeding 40 megawatts that is operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system and satisfies the RPS eligibility criteria of ~~Chapter 2.6.3.~~Chapter 2.6.3 of this guidebook may be considered a separate project even though the generation unit itself is part of a larger hydroelectric facility. The turbine and generator of the hydroelectric generation unit shall constitute a separate project, provided that the unit is separately metered to identify the generation and is separately certified as RPS-eligible by the Energy Commission. A hydroelectric generation unit operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system may be eligible to apply for certification as

a small hydroelectric facility provided it meets the requirements described in Chapter 2.6.1. Small Hydroelectric Facilities.

2)

If a hydroelectric generation unit is certified as part of a small hydroelectric facility, rather than individually under Chapter 2.6.3.Chapter 2.6.3 of this guidebook, the capacity of the hydroelectric unit shall be considered part of the overall project in determining the capacity of the small hydroelectric facility.

A hydroelectric generation unit shall not be considered contiguous with other hydroelectric units within a one-mile radius that use the same impoundment as a water source for power generation if the following conditions are satisfied:

a) (A) tThe unit is physically separated from the other units and not located in the same powerhouse as the other units;

b) (B) tThe delivery of water to the unit is provided by a separate penstock[69] or conduit that does not supply water to the other units;

c) (C) tThe unit releases water to a separate natural stream, canal, conduit, or other water conveyance that to which none of the other units release water; and

d) (D) wWater released from the unit is not delivered, returned, or transferred to a natural stream, canal, conduit, or other water conveyance that receives water from the other units.

Public information — any information in the Energy Commission's possession that is not subject to a request or determination of confidential designation under the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 2505 et seq., and may be disclosed under the California Public Records Act -(Division 10 ([commencing with Section 7920.000]) of Title 1 of the Government Code) and the Information Practices Act (Civil Code Section 1798, et seq.).

Pumped hydroelectric — an energy storage technology consisting of two water reservoirs separated vertically; during off-peak hours, water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, allowing the off-peak electrical energy to be stored indefinitely as gravitational potential energy in the upper reservoir. During peak hours, wWater from the upper reservoir may be released and passed through hydroelectricaulic turbines to generate electricity as needed.

Qualifying facility — a qualifying small power production facility eligible for certification under Section 292.207 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Renewable — a power source other than a conventional power source within the meaning of Section 2805 of the Public Utilities Code. Section 2805 states: " 'Conventional power source' means power derived from nuclear energy or the operation of a hydropower facility greater than 30 megawatts or the combustion of fossil fuels, unless cogeneration technology, as

69 The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "penstock" as a sluice or gate for regulating a water flow.

defined in Section 25134 of the Public Resources Code, is employed in the production of such power."

Renewable electrical generation facility — an electrical generation facility as defined in Public Resources Code Section 25741(a).

Renewable energy credit (REC) — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(1), to mean a certificate of proof associated with the generation of electricity from an eligible renewable energy resource, issued through the accounting system established by the Energy Commission under Section 399.25, that one unit of electricity was generated and delivered by an eligible renewable energy resource. As specified in Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(2), a REC includes all renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production of electricity from an eligible renewable energy resource, except for an emissions reduction credit issued under Section 40709 of the Health and Safety Code and any credits or payments associated with the reduction of solid waste and treatment benefits created by the utilization of biomass or biogas fuels. As specified in Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(3)(A), electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource attributable to the use of nonrenewable fuels, beyond a de minimis quantity used to generate electricity in the same process through which the utility converts renewable fuel to electricity, shall not result in the creation of a renewable energy credit.

The renewable and environmental attributes included as part of a REC are those attributes identified by the CPUC in Decision 08-08-028 as follows: "A REC includes all renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production of electricity from the eligible renewable energy resource, including any avoided emission of pollutants to the air, soil or water; any avoided emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, or any other greenhouse gases that have been determined by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or otherwise by law**,** to contribute to the actual or potential threat of global climate change;[70] and the reporting rights to these avoided emissions, such as Green Tag reporting rights.[71]

A REC does not include any emissions reduction credit issued under Section 40709 of the Health and Safety Code or any credits or payments associated with the reduction of solid waste or treatment benefits created by the utilization of biomass or biogas fuels. A REC also does not include any energy, capacity, reliability or other power attributes of the generation; any tax credits or other financial incentives in the form of credits, reductions, or allowances associated with the generation that are applicable to a state or federal income taxation obligation; any fuel-related subsidies or "tipping fees" or local subsidies received by the

70 "Avoided emissions may or may not have any value for GHG compliance purposes. Although avoided emissions are included in the definition of the REC, this definition does not create any right to use those avoided emissions to comply with any GHG regulatory program."

71 "Green Tag reporting rights are the right to report the ownership of accumulated Green Tags in compliance with federal or state law, if applicable, and to a federal or state agency or any other party and include without limitation those Green Tag reporting rights accruing under Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and any present or future federal, state, or local law, regulation or bill, and international or foreign emissions trading program."

generator for the destruction of particular preexisting pollutants or the promotion of local environmental benefits; or emission reduction credits (whether issued under Section 40709 of the Health and Safety Code or any other authority) that are encumbered or used by the generator for compliance with local, state, or federal operating and/or air quality permits."[72]

As specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.21(a)(4), RECs shall not be created for electricity generated pursuant to any electricity purchase contract with a retail seller or a local publicly owned electric utility executed before January 1, 2005, unless the contract contains explicit terms and conditions specifying the ownership or disposition of the RECs. As specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.21(a)(5), RECs shall not be created for electricity generated under any electricity purchase contract executed after January 1, 2005, under the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Section 2601, et seq.).

Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (i), to mean the specified percentage of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources that a retail seller or local publicly owned electric utility is required to procure under Public Utilities Code Section 399.11 et seq.

Reporting year — refers to a particular year within a compliance period for which the annual generation has already occurred and for which the RECs are being retired and used for RPS compliance.

Repower(ed) —generically refers to replacing a significant portion of the generating equipment at an existing facility.

Retail sales —refer to definition in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201.

Retail seller — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (j), to mean an entity engaged in the retail sale of electricity to end-use customers located within the state. Retail sellers include electrical corporations, community choice aggregators (as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 331.1), and electric service providers (as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 218.3). Retail sellers do not include local publicly owned electric utilities, entities employing cogeneration technology or producing power consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 218, subdivision (b), or the Department of Water Resources acting within its capacity under Division 27 of the Water Code (commencing with Section 80000).

Retire — to claim a renewable energy credit in the tracking system established by the Energy Commission under Public Utilities Code Section 399.25, subdivision (c), and thereby commit the renewable energy credit to be used for compliance with the RPS.

RPS certification — certification by the Energy Commission that an electrical generation facility is an eligible renewable energy resource meeting the state's RPS under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, et seq. and Public Resources Code Section 25741.

72 CPUC Decision 08-08-028, Ordering Paragraph 1.

RPS procurement requirements — refers to ~~both~~ the portfolio balance requirement~~, and~~ the RPS procurement target, and, beginning January 1, 2021, the long-term procurement requirement with which an LSE must comply.

RPS procurement target — the specified percentage of retail sales that a LSE must procure of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources for each compliance period.

Round-trip efficiency losses — the amount of energy that is lost during the charge and discharge cycle of an energy storage device.

Small hydroelectric facility — an electrical generation facility employing one or more hydroelectric turbine generators, the sum capacity of which does not exceed 30 megawatts except in the case of qualifying efficiency improvements under Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.5.

Solar thermal electric — the conversion of sunlight to heat and the related concentration and use to power a generator to produce electricity.

Test energy — electricity generated for testing the operation of an electrical generation facility before the commercial operations date of the facility.

Tidal current power — energy obtained by using the motion of the tides to run water turbines that drive electric generators.

Water supply or conveyance system — the distribution of water through a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, and/or similarly constructed water conveyance that was built for distributing water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption, and operated primarily for this purpose.

Watt (W) — a unit of power, equal to the power developed in a circuit by a current of one ampere flowing through a potential difference of one volt. A kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts, and a megawatt is equal to 1,000,000 watts.

Watt-hour (Wh) — ~~O~~one watt of electricity supplied source one hour. A kilowatt-hour is equal to 1,000 watt-hours, and a megawatt-hour is equal to 1,000,000 watt-hours.

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (mm~~gg~~), is one of several regional electric reliability councils with delegated authority under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the regional entity responsible for coordinating and promoting bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection serving all or part of the 14 western states[73] and portions of Mexico (in northern Baja California) and Canada (in British Columbia and Alberta).

Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) — the independent, renewable energy tracking system implemented for the region covered by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council.

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73 The western states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

WREGIS Certificate — the electronic representation of one megawatt-hour of electricity generation within the WREGIS system; also known as a renewable energy credit.

Wind —refers to a technology that converts energy from the environmental movement of air into mechanical energy and then electricity.

~~GLOSSARY OF TERMS~~

~~***Additional electricity resource*** – an electricity input used to charge an energy storage device that is either grid electricity or other source that is not an eligible renewable energy resource.~~

~~***Aggregated unit*** — a group of small electrical generation facilities that are treated as a single electrical generation facility for RPS certification.~~

~~***Appropriation*** — consistent with Water Code Section 1201, the right to use a specified quantity of water from any surface streams or other surface bodies of water, or from any subterranean streams flowing through known and definite channels.~~

~~***Awardee*** – An individual or entity awarded RPS certification for an electrical generation facility, under the *RPS Guidebook*. An awardee includes both the facility owner and the authorized officer or agent that applied for the facility certification on behalf of the facility owner.~~

~~***Balancing authority*** — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (b), to mean the responsible entity that integrates LSE resource plans ahead of time, maintains load-interchange-generation balance within a balancing authority area, and supports interconnection frequency in real time.~~

~~***Balancing authority area*** — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (c), for the RPS, to mean the collection of generation, transmission, and loads within the metered boundaries of the area within which the balancing authority maintains the electrical load- resource balance.~~

~~***Beneficial use*** — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sections 659 through 672, to include the following uses of water: domestic use, irrigation use, power use, municipal use, mining use, industrial use, fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement use, aquaculture use, recreational use, and heat control use.~~

~~***Biodiesel*** — a renewable fuel derived in whole or in part from a biomass feedstock such as agricultural crops or agricultural wastes and residues, including, but not limited to, animal wastes, remains, and tallow; food wastes, recycled cooking oils, and pure vegetable oils; or from an eligible solid waste conversion process using municipal solid waste.~~

~~***Biomass*** — any organic material not derived from fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, agricultural crops, agricultural wastes and residues, waste pallets, crates, dunnage, manufacturing, construction wood wastes, landscape and right-of-way tree trimmings, mill residues that result from milling lumber, rangeland maintenance residues, biosolids, sludge derived from organic matter, wood and wood waste from timbering operations, biomass black~~

liquor, and any fuel that qualify as "biomass conversion" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40106. Agricultural wastes and residues include, but are not limited to, animal wastes, remains, and tallow; food wastes; recycled cooking oils; and pure vegetable oils.

Biomethane — Landfill gas or digester gas, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 25741 and Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.6, subdivision (g).

California balancing authority (CBA) — consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 399.12 (d), means a balancing authority located primarily in California with more than 50 percent of the end-use electric load physically located within the political boundaries of California. This includes balancing authority areas operated by the California Independent System Operator Corporation, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Balancing Authority of Northern California, Imperial Irrigation District, and Turlock Irrigation District.

Capacity — the actual or potential ability to perform relating to flow, power, energy, and so forth. For the production of electricity, see "nameplate capacity."

Commercial operations date (COD) — the date on which an electrical generation facility ceases to generate electricity for testing purposes and first generates electricity solely for consumption by the facility or any customer or for sale to any procuring retail seller or POU; also referred to as "commenced operation date" in WREGIS.

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Executive Director — the Executive Director of the Energy Commission, or his or her designee.

Facility — see "project."

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Ocean thermal — refers to technology that uses the temperature differences between deep and surface ocean water to produce electricity.

Ocean wave — refers to a technology that uses ocean waves to produce electricity.

Ownership agreement – consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (p), and for POUs only, includes (1) an agreement between a POU and a third party to acquire or develop an electrical generation facility or (2) if the POU built and owns the electrical generation facility and therefore has no such agreement with a third party, the arrangement by which the POU built the facility.

Paired – an energy storage device that has the capability to be charged directly from an eligible renewable energy resource behind a single point of interconnection.

Photovoltaic (PV) — a technology that uses a semiconductor to convert sunlight directly into electricity via the photoelectric effect.

Point of interconnection – the substation where radial lines from a given facility first come under the authority of WECC.

Portfolio balance requirement (PBR) - consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (q), refers to the portfolio content category minimum and maximum requirements specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16.

Portfolio Content Category (PCC) — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (r), refers to one of three categories of electricity products procured from an eligible renewable energy resource.

POU – see "local publicly owned electric utility."

Procure — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (f), means to "acquire through ownership or contract."

Project — refers to a group of one or more pieces of generating equipment and ancillary equipment necessary to interconnect to the transmission grid that is unequivocally separable from any other generating equipment or components. For hydroelectric facilities under the RPS program, a "project" is two or more sets of generating equipment that are within a one-mile radius of each other and are either 1) contiguous, such as the use of the same impoundment, or 2) share common control or maintenance facilities and schedules, except in the following circumstances:

3) A conduit hydroelectric facility, certified as a conduit hydroelectric facility and not a small hydroelectric facility, may be considered a separate project even though the facility itself is part of a larger hydroelectric facility, provided that the larger hydroelectric facility commenced commercial operations prior to January 1, 2006; and the conduit hydroelectric facility commenced commercial operations on or after January 1, 2006, does not cause an adverse impact on instream beneficial uses or cause a change in the volume or timing of streamflow; is separately metered to identify the generation; and is separately certified as RPS-eligible by the Energy Commission. A conduit hydroelectric facility certified as a small hydroelectric facility may not be part of a larger project without considering the capacity of the entire project in the certification.

4) A hydroelectric generation unit with a nameplate capacity not exceeding 40 megawatts that is operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system and satisfies the RPS eligibility criteria of Chapter 2.6.3. of this guidebook may be considered a separate project even though the generation unit itself is part of a larger hydroelectric facility. The turbine and generator of the hydroelectric generation unit shall constitute a separate project, provided that the unit is separately metered to identify the generation and is separately certified as RPS-eligible by the Energy Commission. A hydroelectric generation unit operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system may be eligible to apply for certification as a small hydroelectric facility provided it meets the requirements described in Chapter 2.6.1. Small Hydroelectric Facilities.

If a hydroelectric generation unit is certified as part of a small hydroelectric facility, rather than individually under Chapter 2.6.3. of this guidebook, the capacity of the hydroelectric unit shall be

considered part of the overall project in determining the capacity of the small hydroelectric facility.

A hydroelectric generation unit shall not be considered contiguous with other hydroelectric units within a one-mile radius that use the same impoundment as a water source for power generation if the following conditions are satisfied: (A) the unit is physically separated from the other units and not located in the same powerhouse as the other units; (B) the delivery of water to the unit is provided by a separate penstock[74] or conduit that does not supply water to the other units; (C) the unit releases water to a separate natural stream, canal, conduit, or other water conveyance that to which none of the other units release water; and (D) water released from the unit is not delivered, returned, or transferred to a natural stream, canal, conduit, or other water conveyance that receives water from the other units.

Public information — any information in the Energy Commission's possession that is not subject to a request or determination of confidential designation under the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 2505 et seq., and may be disclosed under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code)(Government Code Section 6250, et seq.) and the Information Practices Act (Civil Code Section 1798, et seq.).

Pumped hydroelectric — an energy storage technology consisting of two water reservoirs separated vertically; during off-peak hours, water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, allowing the off-peak electrical energy to be stored indefinitely as gravitational potential energy in the upper reservoir. During peak hours, wWater from the upper reservoir may be released and passed through hydraulic turbines to generate electricity as needed.

Qualifying facility — a qualifying small power production facility eligible for certification under Section 292.207 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Renewable — a power source other than a conventional power source within the meaning of Section 2805 of the Public Utilities Code. Section 2805 states: " 'Conventional power source' means power derived from nuclear energy or the operation of a hydropower facility greater than 30 megawatts or the combustion of fossil fuels, unless cogeneration technology, as defined in Section 25134 of the Public Resources Code, is employed in the production of such power."

Renewable electrical generation facility — an electrical generation facility as defined in Public Resources Code Section 25741(a).

Renewable energy credit (REC) — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(1), to mean a certificate of proof associated with the generation of electricity from an eligible renewable energy resource, issued through the accounting system established by the Energy Commission under Section 399.25, that one unit of electricity was generated and delivered by an eligible renewable energy resource. As specified in Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(2), a REC includes all renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production of electricity from an eligible renewable energy resource, except for an emissions reduction credit issued under Section 40709 of the Health and Safety Code and any credits or payments associated with the reduction of solid waste and treatment benefits created by the utilization of biomass or biogas

74 The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "penstock" as a sluice or gate for regulating a water flow.

fuels. As specified in Section 399.12, subdivision (h)(3)(A), electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource attributable to the use of nonrenewable fuels, beyond a de minimis quantity used to generate electricity in the same process through which the utility converts renewable fuel to electricity, shall not result in the creation of a renewable energy credit.

The renewable and environmental attributes included as part of a REC are those attributes identified by the CPUC in Decision 08-08-028 as follows: "A REC includes all renewable and environmental attributes associated with the production of electricity from the eligible renewable energy resource, including any avoided emission of pollutants to the air, soil or water; any avoided emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, or any other greenhouse gases that have been determined by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or otherwise by law, to contribute to the actual or potential threat of global climate change;[75] and the reporting rights to these avoided emissions, such as Green Tag reporting rights.[76]

A REC does not include any emissions reduction credit issued underSection 40709 of the Health and Safety Code or any credits or payments associated with the reduction of solid waste or treatment benefits created by the utilization of biomass or biogas fuels. A REC also does not include any energy, capacity, reliability or other power attributes of the generation; any tax credits or other financial incentives in the form of credits, reductions, or allowances associated with the generation that are applicable to a state or federal income taxation obligation; any fuel- related subsidies or "tipping fees" or local subsidies received by the generator for the destruction of particular preexisting pollutants or the promotion of local environmental benefits; or emission reduction credits (whether issued under Section 40709 of the Health and Safety Code or any other authority) that are encumbered or used by the generator for compliance with local, state, or federal operating and/or air quality permits."[77]

As specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.21(a)(4), RECs shall not be created for electricity generated pursuant to any electricity purchase contract with a retail seller or a local publicly owned electric utility executed before January 1, 2005, unless the contract contains explicit terms and conditions specifying the ownership or disposition of the RECs. As specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.21(a)(5), RECs shall not be created for electricity generated under any electricity purchase contract executed after January 1, 2005 under the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Section 2601, et seq.).

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75 "Avoided emissions may or may not have any value for GHG compliance purposes. Although avoided emissions are included in the definition of the REC, this definition does not create any right to use those avoided emissions to comply with any GHG regulatory program."

76 "Green Tag reporting rights are the right to report the ownership of accumulated Green Tags in compliance with federal or state law, if applicable, and to a federal or state agency or any other party and include without limitation those Green Tag reporting rights accruing under Section 1605(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and any present or future federal, state, or local law, regulation or bill, and international or foreign emissions trading program."

77 CPUC Decision 08-08-028, Ordering Paragraph 1.

Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (i), to mean the specified percentage of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources that a retail seller or local publicly owned electric utility is required to procure under Public Utilities Code Section 399.11 et seq.

Reporting Year — refers to a particular year within a compliance period for which the annual generation has already occurred and for which the RECs are being retired and used for RPS compliance.

Repower(ed) — generically refers to replacing a significant portion of the generating equipment at an existing facility.

Retail sales — refer to definition in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201.

Retail seller — as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (j), to mean an entity engaged in the retail sale of electricity to end-use customers located within the state. Retail sellers include electrical corporations, community choice aggregators (as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 331.1), and electric service providers (as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 218.3). Retail sellers do not include local publicly owned electric utilities, entities employing cogeneration technology or producing power consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 218, subdivision (b), or the Department of Water Resources acting within its capacity under Division 27 of the Water Code (commencing with Section 80000).

Retire – to claim a renewable energy credit in the tracking system established by the Energy Commission under Public Utilities Code Section 399.25, subdivision (c), and thereby commit the renewable energy credit to be used for compliance with the RPS.

RPS Certification – certification by the Energy Commission that an electrical generation facility is an eligible renewable energy resource meeting the state's RPS under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, et seq. and Public Resources Code Section 25741.

RPS procurement requirements — refers to both the portfolio balance requirement and the RPS procurement target with which an LSE must comply.

RPS procurement target — the specified percentage of retail sales that a LSE must procure of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources for each compliance period.

Round-trip efficiency losses – the amount of energy that is lost during the charge and discharge cycle of an energy storage device.

Small hydroelectric facility — an electrical generation facility employing one or more hydroelectric turbine generators, the sum capacity of which does not exceed 30 megawatts except in the case of qualifying efficiency improvements under Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.5.

Solar thermal electric — the conversion of sunlight to heat and the related concentration and use to power a generator to produce electricity.

Test energy — electricity generated for testing the operation of an electrical generation facility before the commercial operations date of the facility.

Tidal current power — energy obtained by using the motion of the tides to run water turbines that drive electric generators.

Water supply or conveyance system — the distribution of water through a tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, and/or similarly constructed water conveyance that was built for distributing water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption, and operated primarily for this purpose.

Watt (W) — a unit of power, equal to the power developed in a circuit by a current of one ampere flowing through a potential difference of one volt. A kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts, and a megawatt is equal to 1,000,000 watts.

Watt-hour (Wh) — One watt of electricity supplied source one hour. A kilowatt-hour is equal to 1,000 watt-hours, and a megawatt-hour is equal to 1,000,000 watt-hours.

Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) — consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 3201 (gg), is one of several regional electric reliability councils with delegated authority under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the regional entity responsible for coordinating and promoting bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection serving all or part of the 14 western states[78] and portions of Mexico (in northern Baja California) and Canada (in British Columbia and Alberta).

Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) — the independent, renewable energy tracking system implemented for the region covered by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council.

WREGIS Certificate — the electronic representation of one megawatt-hour of electricity generation within the WREGIS system; also known as a renewable energy credit.

Wind — refers to a technology that converts energy from the environmental movement of air into mechanical energy and then electricity.

78 The western states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB — Assembly Bill

~~ARB — California Air Resources Board~~

BA — Balancing authority

CARB — California Air Resources Board

CBA — California balancing authority

CPUC — California Public Utilities Commission

DG – Distributed generation

EIA — Energy Information Administration

ERFP — Existing Renewable Facilities Program

e-Tag — Electronic tag used to document an energy interchange transaction

FERC — Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

GU ID — WREGIS Generating Unit Identification Number

IOU — Investor-owned utility

ITS — Interim Tracking System

LORS — Laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards

LSE — Load-serving entity

MJU — Multijurisdictional Utility

MMBtu — 1 million British thermal units

MSW — Municipal solid waste

MW — Megawatt

MWh — Megawatt-hour

NERC — North American Electric Reliability Corporation

PBR — Portfolio balance requirements

PCC — Portfolio Content Category

PG&E — Pacific Gas and Electric Company

POU — Local publicly owned electric utility

PRC — California Public Resources Code

PUC — California Public Utilities Code

PURPA — Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978

PV — Pphotovoltaic

QF — Qualifying Small Power Production Facility

QRE — Qualified Reporting Entity

REC — Renewable Energy Credit/Certificate

RPS — Renewables Portfolio Standard

SB — Senate Bill

SCE — Southern California Edison Company

SDG&E — San Diego Gas & Electric Company

SWRCB— State Water Resources Control Board

WECC — Western Electricity Coordinating Council

WREGIS— Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System

APPENDIX A:
Statutory History

Below is a list of bills enacted into law that made changes to RPS statutes or affected the RPS to some degree.

- **Senate Bill 1038** (Sher, Chapter 515, Statutes of 2002). The pertinent provisions of SB 1038 were formerly codified in Public Utilities Code Sections 383.5 and 445 but are now codified in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 as a result of Senate Bill 183 (Sher, Chapter 666, Statutes of 2003).
- **Senate Bill 1078** (Sher, Chapter 516, Statutes of 2002) established the Renewables Portfolio Standard. The pertinent provisions of SB 1078 were codified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.11 through 399.15. This law was subsequently amended to add Sections 399.16, 399.17, and 399.12.5 under Senate Bill 67 (Bowen, Chapter 731, Statutes of 2003), Assembly Bill 200 (Leslie, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2005), and Assembly Bill 2189 (Blakeslee, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2006), respectively.
- **Senate Bill 1250** (Perata, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2006) amended pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751.
- **Senate Bill 107** (Simitian, Chapter 464, Statutes of 2006) amended pertinent provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 and Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11 through 399.16.
- **Senate Bill 1036 (**Perata, Chapter 685, Statutes of 2007) repealed the provisions for awarding SEPs and requires the Energy Commission to terminate production incentives awarded as of January 1, 2002, unless the facility began generating electricity by January 1, 2007.
- **Assembly Bill 1969** (Yee, Chapter 731, Statutes of 2006) added Public Utilities Code Section 399.20, authorizing tariffs and standard contracts for the purchase of eligible renewable generation from public water and wastewater customers. In July 2007, the CPUC implemented AB 1969, Decision 07-07-027, creating a feed-in tariff (FIT) up to 1.5 megawatt, and expanded the FIT to cover nonwater and wastewater customers in the service territories of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE). All generation procured under this program counts toward the RPS target targets of PG&E and SCE.
- **Assembly Bill 3048** (Committee on Utilities and Commerce, Chapter 558, Statutes of 2008) and **Senate Bill 380** (Pavley, Chapter 544, Statutes of 2008) were passed into law in 2008. AB 3048 addressed the RPS eligibility of existing renewable generation owned by or under contract with a local publicly owned electric utility (POU), and SB 380 expanded feed-in tariffs for small renewable generators in the service territories of the large Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and raised the program cap from 250 MW to 500 MW.

- **Assembly Bill 1351** (Blakeslee, Chapter 525, Statutes of 2009) requires that hydroelectric facilities be owned by a retail seller or local publicly owned electric utility for the incremental generation of the facility due to eligible efficiency improvements to be eligible for the RPS. AB 1351 also expands eligibility for such facilities located outside California.
- **Assembly Bill 920** (Huffman, Chapter 376, Statutes of 2009) requires electric utilities to develop a tariff to compensate wind and solar net energy metering customers for electricity they produce in excess of their on-site load at the end of a 12-month period (net surplus generation). An eligible customer-generator with a facility no more than 1 megawatt in capacity that elects to participate in the tariff will be compensated by the utility for the net surplus generation of the of the facility. This rate is determined by the CPUC for PG&E, SCE and SDG&E. The utility may count this surplus generation toward its RPS obligation.
- **Senate Bill 32** (Negrete, Chapter 328, Statutes of 2009) further modified Public Utilities Code Section 399.20. It expands the eligible project size of the feed-in tariff from 1.5 MW to 3 MW in size, raises the program cap from 500 MW to 750 MW, and requires municipal utilities to comply with this statute. SB 32 must be implemented through a CPUC proceeding before projects can use the new tariff.
- **Senate Bill 1247** (Dutton, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2010) signed into law on September 29, 2010, as an urgency bill, modifies Public Utilities Code Section 399.12.5. SB 1247 ensures that for a hydroelectric generation facility certified as of January 1, 2010, its RPS eligibility will not be revoked if the facility causes a change in the volume or timing of streamflow that is required by license conditions approved pursuant to the Federal Power Act [Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 791a] of Title 16 of the United States Code) on or after January 1, 2010.
- **Assembly Bill 1954** (Skinner, Chapter 460, Statutes of 2010) directed the Energy Commission to set the de minimis quantity of nonrenewable fuels that may be used for each renewable technology at no more than 2 percent, but permits the Energy Commission to adjust this de minimis quantity to a maximum of 5 percent for facilities if certain conditions are satisfied as specified in AB 1954.
- **Senate Bill X1-2** (Simitian,Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011, First Ex. Sess.)~~,~~ established the California Renewable Energy Resources Act and amends provisions in Public Resources Code Sections 25740 through 25751 and amends and/or adds Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11 through 399.31 to advance the state's RPS goal to at least 33 percent of total retail sales of electricity in California by December 31, 2020, and to expand the same RPS goals to local publicly owned electric utilities as to retail sellers. SB X1-2 makes other changes to the RPS, including replacing the annual procurement targets with compliance periods, replacing the market price referent with new cost containment provisions, and creating renewable energy product categories with specific procurement requirements for each compliance period.
- **Assembly Bill 2196** (Chesbro, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2012) amended Section 25741 of the Public Resources Code and adds Section 399.12.6 to the Public Utilities Code. AB 2196 revises the requirements for renewable electrical generation facilities that use

landfill gas, digester gas, or another renewable fuel delivered to the facility through a common carrier pipeline, and establishes conditions for the procurement of such fuel, including the source of the fuel and delivery method. AB 2196 also establishes new eligibility requirements for facilities using biomethane under contracts initially executed on or after March 29, 2012, or for quantities of biomethane associated with contract amendments executed on or after March 29, 2012.

- **Assembly Bill 2187** (Bradford, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2012) amended Section 399.16 of the Public Utilities Code to draw a distinction between the RPS procurement requirements of electric service providers and the procurement requirements of other retail sellers. Retail sellers are generally required to satisfy the RPS procurement requirements of Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) by procuring electricity products that 1) meet one of the three Portfolio Content Categories specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16 (b) and were procured under contracts executed on or after June 1, 2010, or 2) were procured under contracts executed before June 1, 2010, and satisfy the conditions of Public Utilities Code Section 399.16 (d). Under AB 2187, an electric service provider must satisfy the procurement requirements of Article 16 by procuring electricity products that meet one of the three Portfolio Content Categories specified in Public Utilities Code Section 399.16 (b) and were procured under contracts executed after January 13, 2011.
- **Assembly Bill 1478** (Committee on Budget, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2014) amended Section 399.12 of the Public Utilities Code to clarify the RPS eligibility of a small hydroelectric generation unit with a nameplate capacity not exceeding 40 MW that is operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system.
- **Senate Bill 350** (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) amended pertinent provisions in Sections 399.11, 399.12, 399.13, 399.15, 399.16, 399.18, 399.21, and 399.30 of the Public Utilities Code. Among other things, SB 350 increased the RPS procurement requirements of retail sellers and POUs to 50 percent by 2030; and changed the eligibility requirements of a facility engaged in the combustion of municipal solid waste and electricity generation.
- **Senate Bill 1393** (De León, Chapter 677, Statutes of 2016) amended pertinent provisions in Sections 399.11, 399.12, and 399.30 of the Public Utilities Code. Among other things, SB 1393 clarified the eligibility requirements for a municipal solid waste combustion facility as amended under Senate Bill 350.
- **Senate Bill 100** (DeLeón, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) amended pertinent provisions under Public Utilities Code Sections 399.11, 399.15, and 399.30, and added Public Utilities Code Section 454.53. Among other things, SB 100 increased the RPS to 60 percent by December 31, 2030.
- **Senate Bill 1110** (Bradford, Chapter 605, Statutes of 2018) added Public Utilities Code Section 399.33. Among other things, SB 1110 created a partial procurement target exemption for generation from a qualifying gas-fired power plant that is owned by and serves only one POU, is associated with the POU's outstanding public indebtedness, and satisfies other specified requirements and conditions. Under the exemption, a POU with qualifying generation may adjust its RPS procurement target by a specified amount.

- **Assembly Bill 1921** (Papan, Chapter 556, Statutes of 2024). Revised the definition of "renewable electrical generation facility" to include a facility that uses fuel cells or linear generators that use specified fuels.

APPENDIX B:
Archive

The following historical requirements are no longer applicable and were removed from the main body of the guidebook for reference only.

Hydroelectric Generation Unit Operated as Part of a Water Supply or Conveyance System

The generation from an existing hydroelectric generation unit operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system[79]~~80~~ was eligible for the RPS, subject to the limitations specified below, if the following criteria were satisfied:

a) The generation unit has a nameplate capacity not exceeding 40 MW, subject to the definition of a "project" as defined in this guidebook.
b) A retail seller or local publicly owned electric utility (POU) procured electricity from the generation unit as of December 31, 2005.
c) The generation unit commenced commercial operations on or before December 31, 2005.
d) The generation unit is operated as part of a "water supply or conveyance system," as defined in this guidebook.
e) The electricity generated by the generation unit is metered separately from any other generating units located at or within the same hydroelectric generation facility.[81]
f) An application to certify the generation unit for the RPS was submitted to the Energy Commission before January 1, 2013.

Extension of Deadline for POUs to Use the Interim Tracking

79 Senate Bill X1-2 revised Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), to add existing hydroelectric generation units not exceeding 40 MW and operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system as an eligible renewable energy resource, if certain criteria are met. Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), was subsequently clarified and amended by Assembly Bill 1478 (Statutes of 2014, Chapter 664).

~~80 Senate Bill X1-2 revised Public Utilities Code Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), to add existing hydroelectric generation units not exceeding 40 MW and operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system as an eligible renewable energy resource, if certain criteria are met. Section 399.12, subdivision (e)(1), was subsequently clarified and amended by Assembly Bill 1478 (Statutes of 2014, Chapter 664).~~

81 For example, if a powerhouse located on a water supply or conveyance system includes three separate hydroelectric generating units, each unit for which RPS certification is sought must be separately metered.

System

The deadline for POUs to use the interim tracking system (ITS) to report procurement of generation for the RPS was extended from October 1, 2012, to December 31, 2013, subject to the following requirements:

1) A POU shall report procurement data not tracked in WREGIS by submitting a completed CEC-RPS-Track form to the Energy Commission no later than November 6, 2014 ~~—~~ 30 calendar days after the Energy Commission adopted Resolution No. 14-1007-10 extending the ITS deadline.[82]
2) To report e-Tag data not available in WREGIS, a POU reporting through the ITS shall submit a completed CEC-RPS-eTag Summary Report with the CEC-RPS-Track form as part of the annual reporting requirement described in Chapter 7: Annual Load-Serving Entity Reports.
3) When the ITS is used for reporting procurement, the generating facility (or POU, if the generating facility is owned by the POU) shall report monthly generation data to the Energy Commission on the CEC-RPS-Gen form for the entire previous calendar year for which any WREGIS data are unavailable as part of the annual reporting requirement described in Chapter ~~6~~7: Annual Facility Reports.
4) WREGIS shall be used to track generation for the entire month for which reporting is available in WREGIS; reporting is available during the earliest active certificate creation cycle at the time the generating facility is registered and approved in WREGIS, as described in WREGIS Operating Rules Section 5. WREGIS shall be used to track all months of generation thereafter.
5) The ITS shall not be used to report generation or procurement data from ~~aggregated generating facilities~~distributed generation groups. Generation and procurement data for ~~aggregated generating facilities~~distributed generation groups shall be reported using WREGIS.
6) A generating facility (or POU) that reports generation using the ITS shall comply with all other requirements set forth in this guidebook.
7) All POU generation and procurement data must be tracked and reported using WREGIS beginning January 1, 2014.

Other Nonrenewable Energy Resource Allowances

Historically, the Energy Commission has allowed the generation from facilities using greater amounts of nonrenewable energy resources than the de minimis quantity to be considered 100 percent eligible for the RPS if certain conditions were met, as described below. Only facilities that are certified under these conditions and continue to meet these conditions may receive RPS credit for the entire output of the facility.

82 Resolution No. 14-1007-10 was adopted by the Energy Commission on October 7, 2014.

a) Facilities that were eligible for and participated in the Existing Renewable Facility Program (ERFP) as of December 31, 2011: If the facility met all the conditions for 100 percent of the electric generation to be eligible for ERFP funding under the January 2009 edition of the *Existing Renewables Facilities Program Guidebook, Sixth Edition,* on December 31, 2011, the following limitations apply. In addition, these facilities will need to submit a CEC-RPS-De Minimis supplemental form within 90 days of the adoption of the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook* to provide information on the contract, and acknowledge that they will be subject to the de minimis quantity rules in place after the contract ends.

   1) Biomass facilities that participated in the ERFP may use up to 5 percent nonrenewable energy resources and count the entire output of the facility as RPS-eligible through the end of the electricity procurement contract between the facility and the LSE that was in place at the time the ERFP program ended on December 31, 2011. Once that contract ends under the term in place as of December 31, 2011 (or December 31, 2013, if the contract ended before this date), these facilities will be subject to the de minimis quantity rules in the RPS Guidebook in place at that time. For purposes of this limitation, the term of the contract shall not be deemed extended by virtue of any contract amendment that adds time to the term.
   2) Solar thermal facilities may use up to 25 percent nonrenewable energy resources and count the entire output of the facility as RPS-eligible through the end of the electricity procurement contract between the facility and the LSE that was in place as of December 31, 2011. Once that contract ends under the term in place as of December 31, 2011, these facilities will be subject to the de minimis quantity rules in the RPS Guidebook in place at that time. For this limitation, the term of the contract shall not be deemed extended by virtue of any contract amendment that adds time to the term.

b) Facilities that did not participate in the ERFP and that commenced commercial operations before January 1, 2002, were certified and operational as a renewable qualifying small power production facility (QF) eligible for certification under Section 292.207 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations before January 1, 2002, and are certified as a renewable QF under Section 292.207: The facility may use up to 25 percent nonrenewable energy resources, and the entire electrical generation output of the facility will be considered RPS-eligible through the end of the electricity procurement contract between the facility and the LSE that is in place on the day this eighth edition of *RPS Guidebook* is adopted, these facilities will be subject to the de minimis quantity rules in place at the time the contract ends. These facilities will need to submit a CEC-RPS-De Minimis supplemental form within 90 days of the adoption of the eighth edition of the *RPS Guidebook* to provide contract information and acknowledge that they will be subject to the de minimis quantity rules in the *RPS Guidebook* in place at the time the contract ends. For this limitation, the term of the contract shall not be deemed extended by virtue of any contract amendment that adds time to the term.

Special Cases

There were several special cases where the generation from a specific certified facility or a~~n aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group may count for California's RPS prior to the eligibility date:

1) Net Surplus Generation: Generation procured by a utility as part of an AB 920 net surplus compensation program before November 1, 2012.
2) Hydroelectric generation unit operated as part of a water supply or conveyance system: Electricity generation from these units that are certified pursuant to Chapter 2.6.3 in this guidebook may be claimed by a retail seller or POU beginning with January 1, 2011.
3) Facilities serving a POU: Electricity generation from a facility may be claimed by a POU beginning January 1, 2011, if the facility met the requirements of the RPS Guidebook in place at the time the generation occurred, a complete certification application for the facility was received on or before December 31, 2013, and the facility is subsequently certified based on that application.
4) ~~Aggregate~~ Distributed generation ~~units~~groups owned by a POU: Electricity generation tracked in WREGIS from a~~n aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group that is registered and approved in WREGIS may be claimed by a POU beginning January 1, 2011, or when the generation is first available in WREGIS, whichever is later, if each of the facilities within the ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group are owned by the POU, a complete certification application for the ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group was received on or before December 31, 2013, and the ~~aggregated~~ distributed generation ~~unit~~group was received on or before December 31, 2013, and the aggregated unit is subsequently certified based on that application.

Generation that may count for California's RPS prior to the eligibility date must still comply with the requirements in Chapter 3.1~~A:~~ Generation Tracking and Accounting.