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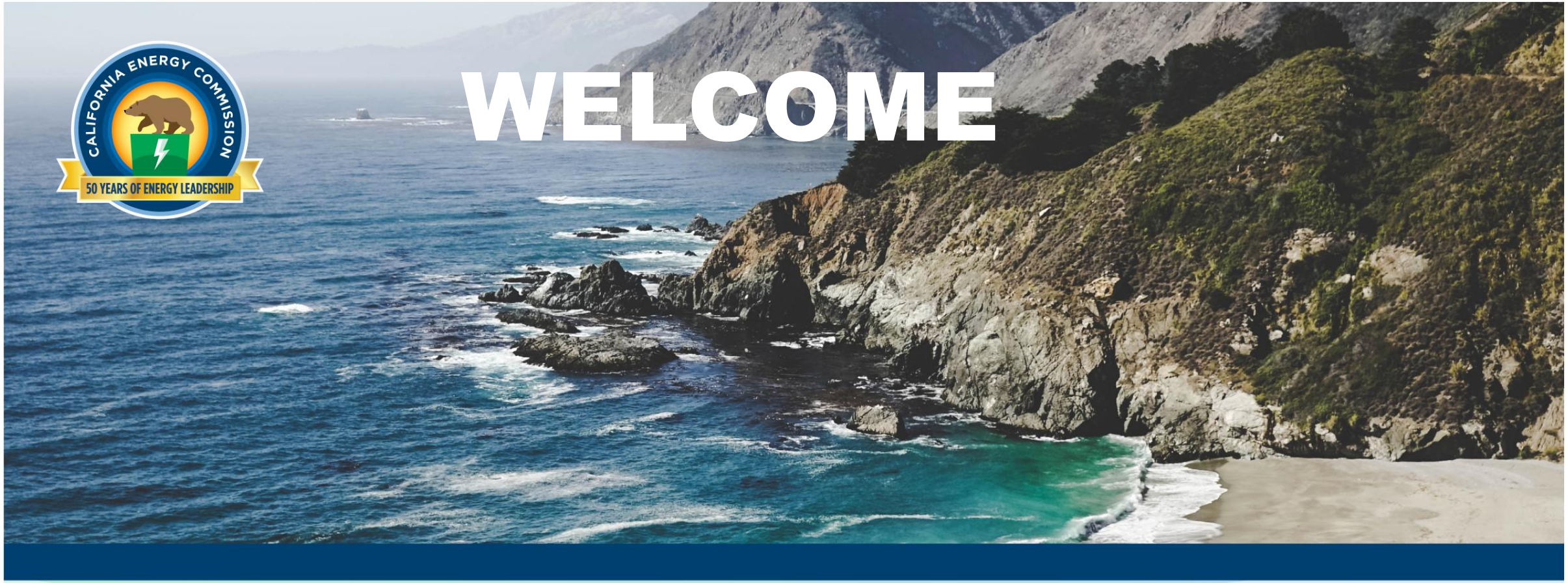


Regional Roundtable 1: CEC Order Instituting an Informational Proceeding on Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty

August 26, 2025

Meeting Logistics

- Public Comment Opportunities
- Principles of a Respectful Meeting

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

CHRISTINA E. SNIDER
TRIBAL ADVISOR

CALIFORNIA TRUTH & HEALING COUNCIL

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPECTFUL MEETINGS

Agenda for Today

- Morning Registration
- Opening Remarks
- Tribal Consultation
- Tribal Energy Sovereignty
- Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development
- Lunch Break
- Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants
- Tribal Energy Equity Indicators
- Engaging with Tribes on Energy Projects
- Assembly Bill 3: Offshore Wind Advancement Act
- Go-Biz Clean Energy Toolkit & Permitting Initiative
- California Tribal Gap Analysis Draft Report
- Closing

Welcome & Opening Remarks

State Opening Remarks

Chair David Hochschild

California Energy Commission

State Opening Remarks

Commissioner Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo

California Energy Commission

State Opening Remarks

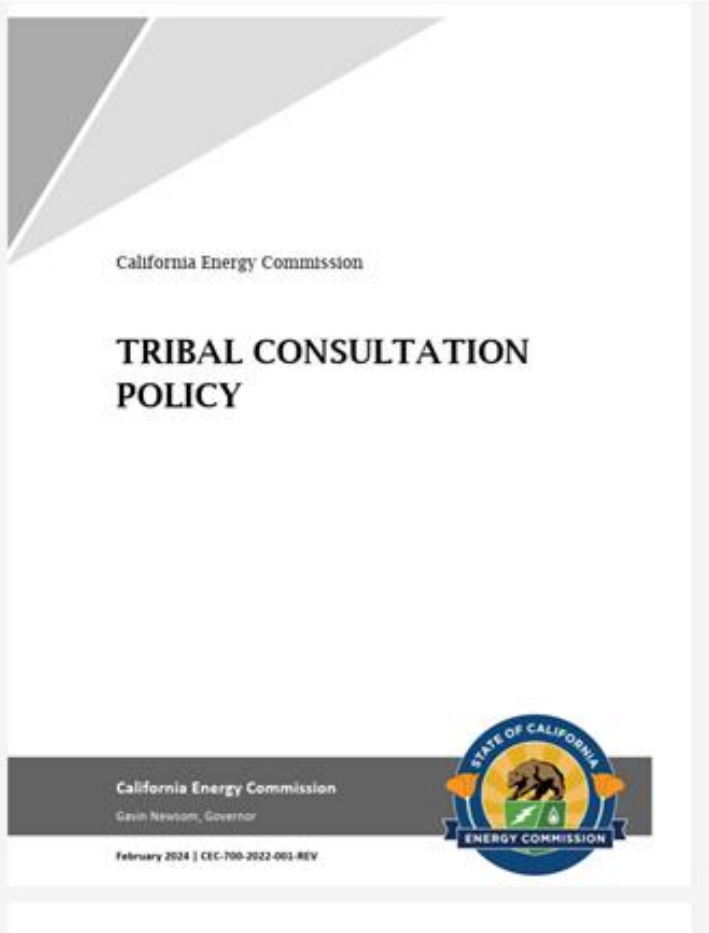
Jana Ganion

Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, Senior Advisor for Offshore Wind

Tribal Consultation Policy

CEC Consultation Policy

- Adopted 2014
- Administrative Update February 2024
- CNRA Tribal Consultation Policy November 2012
- Assembly Bill (AB) 923 – Process for CEC Updates



What Do You See as Best Practices in Tribal Consultation? (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- Recognizing shared responsibilities with tribes and resources
- Training for any staff engaging with tribes, not just state officials
- Input via tribal consultation is important, true government to government input is through official communication
- Specific language regarding funding opportunities
- Addressing specific regional differences, challenges and metrics, including varied grid and overall resource access.
- Coordination of consultations with non-federally recognized tribes
- Include “early and often” language in consultation process
- Include language recognizing tribes' right to request consultation about CEC policies
- Change wording to “will” or “shall” (page 4, bottom paragraph)
- CEC sharing more information regarding legislation. Flagging important hearings and legislation in the many emails people receive.
- Constant learning through regional engagement
- Recognizing the expertise of tribal divisions and staff and supporting their work.
- Making technical assistance the role of each tribal liaison in their division.
- Responsibility of tribal liaison to continue to engage in the region for constant learning
- Giving tribes some input over the tribal consultation training that CEC staff receive
- Tribal Affairs and the role of tribal liaison
- Developing every project with tribal participation
- Follow-up after tribal council meetings

CEC Tribal Consultation Policy Overview

- Identifies the responsibilities and organization of the CEC
- Designation of the CEC Tribal Liaison and Assistant Tribal Liaisons
- Affirms CEC Tribal Liaison participation in the Tribal Liaison Committee
- Outlines CEC's tribal consultation process
- Mechanisms for exchanging confidential information
- Stipulates filing and disclosure requirements concerning CEC tribal communications
- Suggests ways for fostering long-term relationships

Examples From Other Consultation Policies

- Mutual respect – relationship building
- Co-management – TEK specific areas
- Importance of cultural resources and restoration
- Transparency – on-going communication

What Would Tribes Like to See in Consultation Policies (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- Discuss cultural resources in detail
- Expand information confidentiality and include tribal data sovereignty
- Incentivize MOUs and improve pathways to tangible agreements

How to Incorporate Tribal Consultation Policies (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- More training and transparency about CEC policies, opportunities and decision-making processes.
- Making tribal consultation policies more visible
- How do we co-develop policies together?
- Explore regional approach on policies; people, agencies and representatives
- Provide additional notice for regional events (to allow travel planning)
- Annual event for future planning and discussions, with a summary of year's engagement opportunities
- Language to include more funding for Tribal Program – ways to support events and Tribal Program
- Develop language for outreach emails to highlight events
- Virtual matrix or hub of upcoming event dates, tribal projects, opportunities
- Language to include funding commitments for Tribal Program, ways to support to events and tribal program and embed into budget
- Interagency collaboration to organize outreach emails and content from different agencies
- Statewide Tribal Advisory Committee on energy, similar to Minnesota model.
- Seek support letters, communication from tribal nations to encourage further funding, engagement opportunities.
- Include/ explore proactive energy adaptation strategies (climate adaptation strategies) in language

Ahe’hee’ - Thank You!

Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development

Introduction

- Power Plant Planning: Peril and Promise
- Power plants can affect tribal cultural resources
- Project planning: limits time, consultation, flexibility
- Advance planning: encourages time, consultation, flexibility
- Two examples of advance planning

Background on DRECP

- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
- Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management
- Cultural Resource Assistance: California Energy Commission
- Resource Management and Energy Development (10.8M Acres)
- Driven by federal laws and regulations
- Needed to assess cultural resource sensitivity
- CEC created the Data-gathering Initiative (DGI)

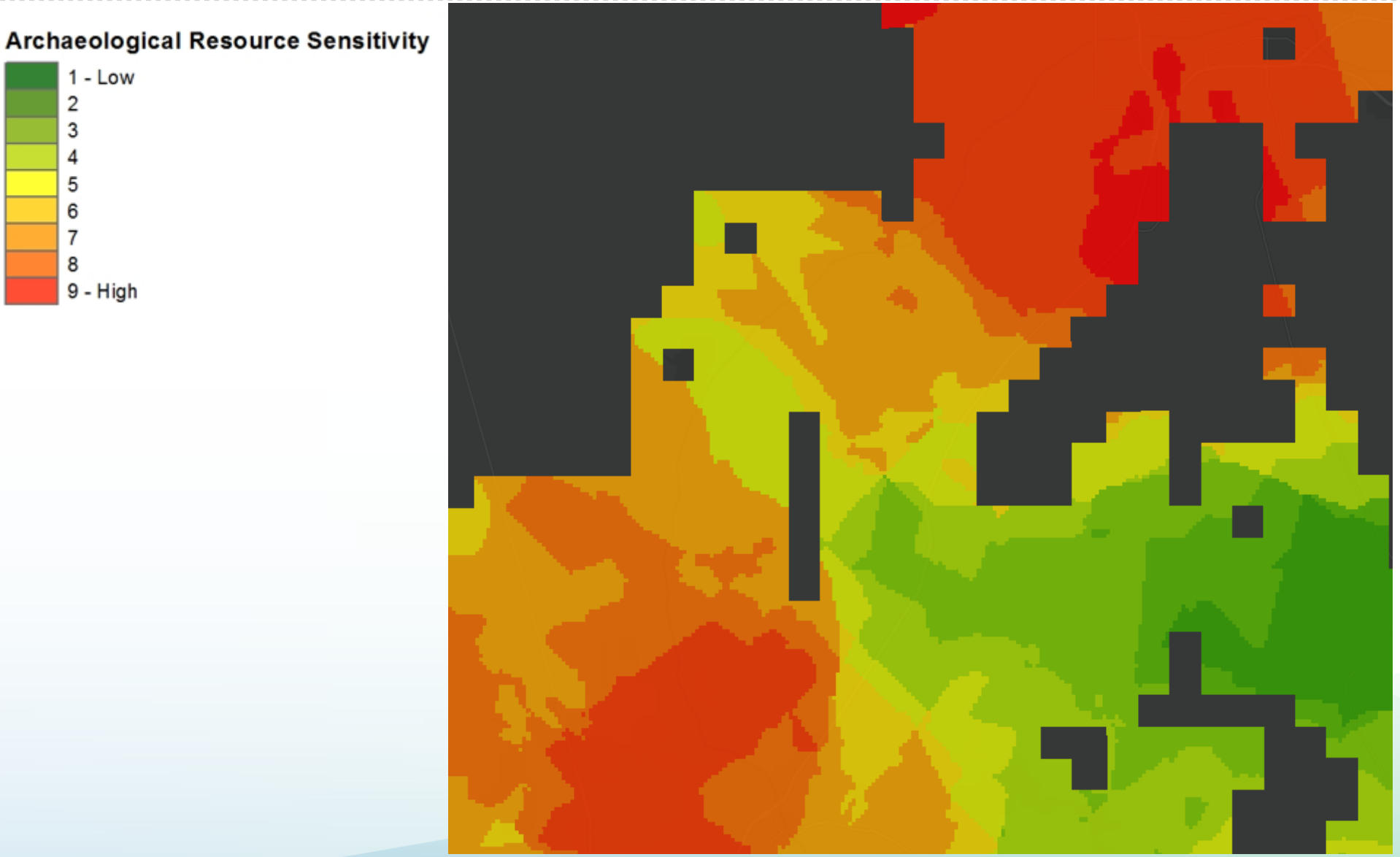
Summary of DGI Methods

1. One-mile grid over the DRECP area
2. 10% random sample of 1-mile squares
3. Records searches within the sampled squares
4. GIS: archaeological resource locations and attributes
5. Total archaeological resources in sample squares: 4,057

Summary of DGI Methods (Cont.)

6. Square sensitivity based on frequency and density
7. Kriging estimated archaeological sensitivity of unsampled squares
8. GIS processing abstracts resource locations
9. GIS: mapped places in public ethnographies
10. Compiled other supplementary GIS layers

DGI Archaeological Sensitivity Map



San Joaquin Valley Solar

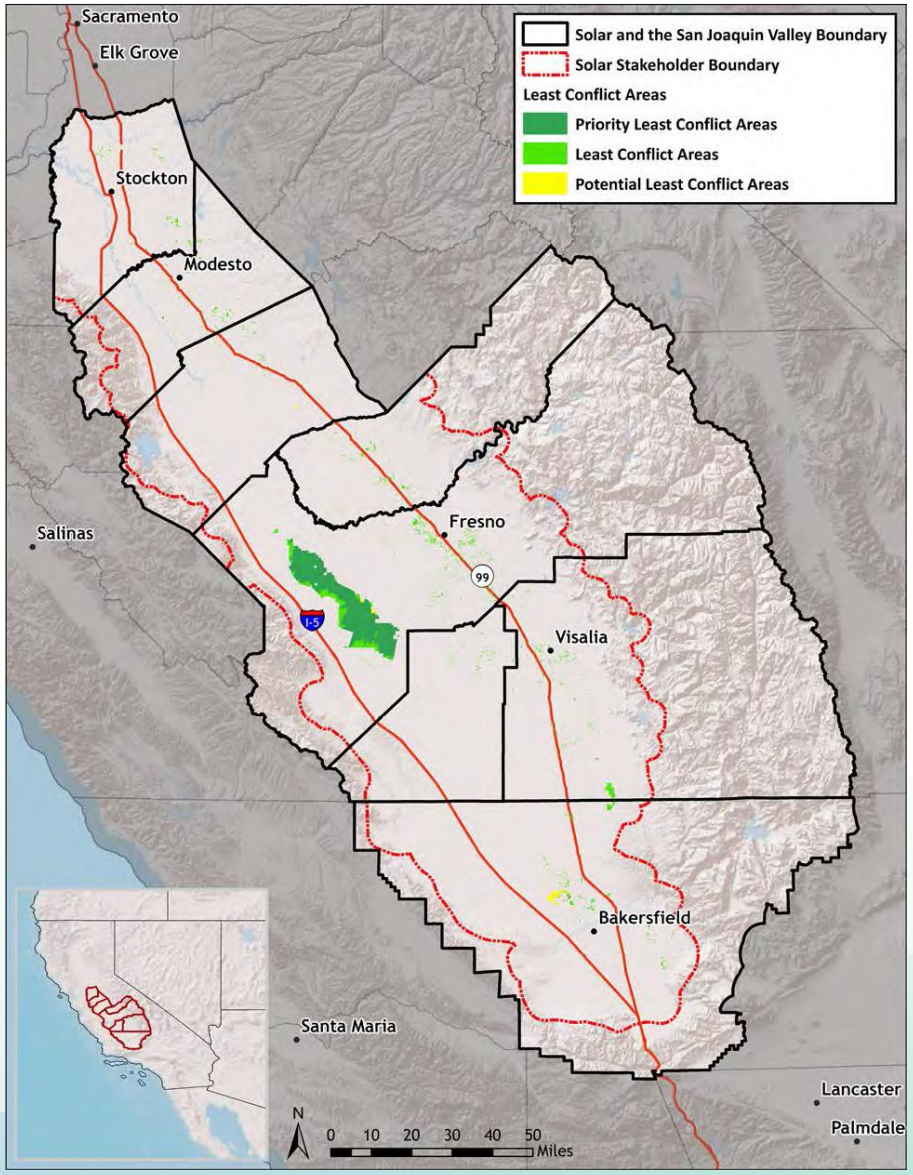
Least-Conflict Areas for San Joaquin Valley Solar

- Agencies, agriculture, bio & tribal conservation, industry
- Covered 9.5M acres across eight counties
- Not driven by laws or regulations
- Tribes affected and steward important knowledge

San Joaquin Valley Solar: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Methods

1. Initiated tribal consultation
2. Convened virtual and in-person meetings
3. Documented written and verbal comments
4. Tribally led information-gathering and GIS mapping
5. Integrated tribal data into other data
6. Tribal review of the outcome
7. Published approved results (*A Path Forward*)

San Joaquin Valley Solar: Tribally Identified Least-Conflict Areas



Comparing Approaches: Status Quo

Typical Project Planning Sequence

- Developer's due-diligence planning: variable tribal outreach
  - Developer often options project site
- The developer prepares an application
  - Sometimes the first agency viewing
- Permitting agencies conduct their environmental impact review
  - Tribal consultation is most intense here

Comparing Approaches: Advance Planning

Benefits of Advance Planning

- Can reduce schedule-related pressure
- Can increase consultation frequency and quality
- Reduces pressure associated with optioned land
- Fewer conflicts about confidential information
- Can reduce risks for tribes and developers
- Recent exemplar: Darden Clean Energy Project

LUNCH BREAK

We will resume at 1:00 p.m.

Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants

CEC Tribal Grants Working Group

Goals:

- Inform OIIP Process
- Identify Challenges
- Share Solutions
- Coordinate Implementation
- Collaboration Across Divisions to Build Capacity

EXAMPLE GRANT STRUCTURES

Example 1:
Equitable Building Decarbonization Program, Tribal Direct Install

Overview: Retrofits to low- and moderate-income households.

Structure of grant:

- Tribal formula allocation with option for additional funding:
- Choice between direct grant administration or community-based organization as “implementer."

Example 2:
Clean Transportation Program
Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, and Workforce Training and Development

Overview: provided funding for Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Tribally-owned businesses for:

1. EV Charging Infrastructure
2. EV Infrastructure Planning
3. EV Workforce Training and Development

Structure of grant:

- Supporting planning and building capacity
- Direct apply or apply with a partner organization

Example 3:
Fifth Climate Change Assessment Tribal Research Grant Program

Overview: supports tribally led research, implementation of resilience projects, and information sharing amongst tribes. Tribal Research Grant Program focused on climate research, Indigenous Knowledges, and similar projects deemed a priority by California tribes.

Structure of grant:

- Two rounds of funding
- Intended to encourage tribally led research to address California-specific tribal research needs
- Application office hours

Example 4: Funding Tribal Microgrids

Overview: Over $100 million towards Tribal Microgrids funded through:

- Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)
- Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)
- California Energy Commission's Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA)

DISCUSSION

What would you like to see in terms of the structure of CEC grant opportunities?

Co-Developed Slide: Grant Structures (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- Exploring ways to work with TERO taxes on grants
- Grants should be least restrictive, requirements/reporting can be complicated for limited staff
    - required attendance at meetings can be cumbersome re travel and time
    - overly complicated reporting (tracking and frequency) or instructions; reduce repetition on reporting questions. Reporting requirements can be too frequent. Burdensome requirements on tracking time.
- Tribes should be lead recipient (prioritize over partner agencies)
    - Tribes should receive the cost for overhead expenses first before partner agencies and organizations
- Requirement of having a partner impacts tribal sovereignty
- Increase amount of time to submit grant applications for tribes
- Taxes impact tribes when applying, executing grants, as tribes operate with a limited tax base.
- Prioritize formula funds over competitive grants, but for formula funds, ensure grant is high enough and flexible enough for a tribe to carry out a priority project.
- Providing enough flexibility in deliverables, especially for formula funds
- Robust dollar amount for grants and projects
- Adding technical service for tribal applicants to be successful
- Matching funds should be flexible or there should be no match fund requirement.
- Allow income flexibility for tribes for grant programs with income limits, as specific circumstances apply.
- Ensuring tribal entities/organizations can apply, not just tribal governments
- Allow grantees to apply funds to long-term interest accounts to support project maintenance and operations for project sustainability.

How do you hear about CEC grant opportunities? How would you like to hear about them?

Co-Developed Slide: Grant Outreach (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- Training for grant reviewers to be mindful of tribal exemptions
- Work with CPUC on extending program areas (Pacific Power territory).
- Provide more funding for tribes outside of IOU territories.
- Addressing de facto application of state law on tribal lands (ie CEQA) through requirements tied to state funding.
- Improving regulatory framework to get funds where it is needed
- Support needed to accelerate funding for shovel-ready projects to take advantage of federal tax incentives.

How can CEC better reduce the barriers to applying for grants?

What barriers have you experienced in grant administration?

THANK YOU

Kelsey.freeman@energy.ca.gov

Tribal Energy Equity Indicators

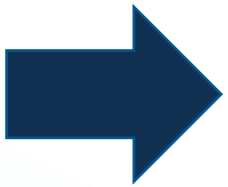
Energy Equity Indicators Tool

Data Visualization and Mapping

Database of Equity Data

Geographic Data Layers

Data Access and Analysis



Insights to Help Prioritize CEC Efforts and Investments for Tribes

Relevance to Other OIIP Efforts

Energy Resources

- Motivate equitable distribution of clean energy resources by increasing transparency
- Track progress over time to measure impact of CEC efforts

Energy Grants

- Help identify communities that could use support to tackle their energy challenges
- Provide quantitative metrics to help strengthen grant proposals

Energy Equity Metrics Categorization

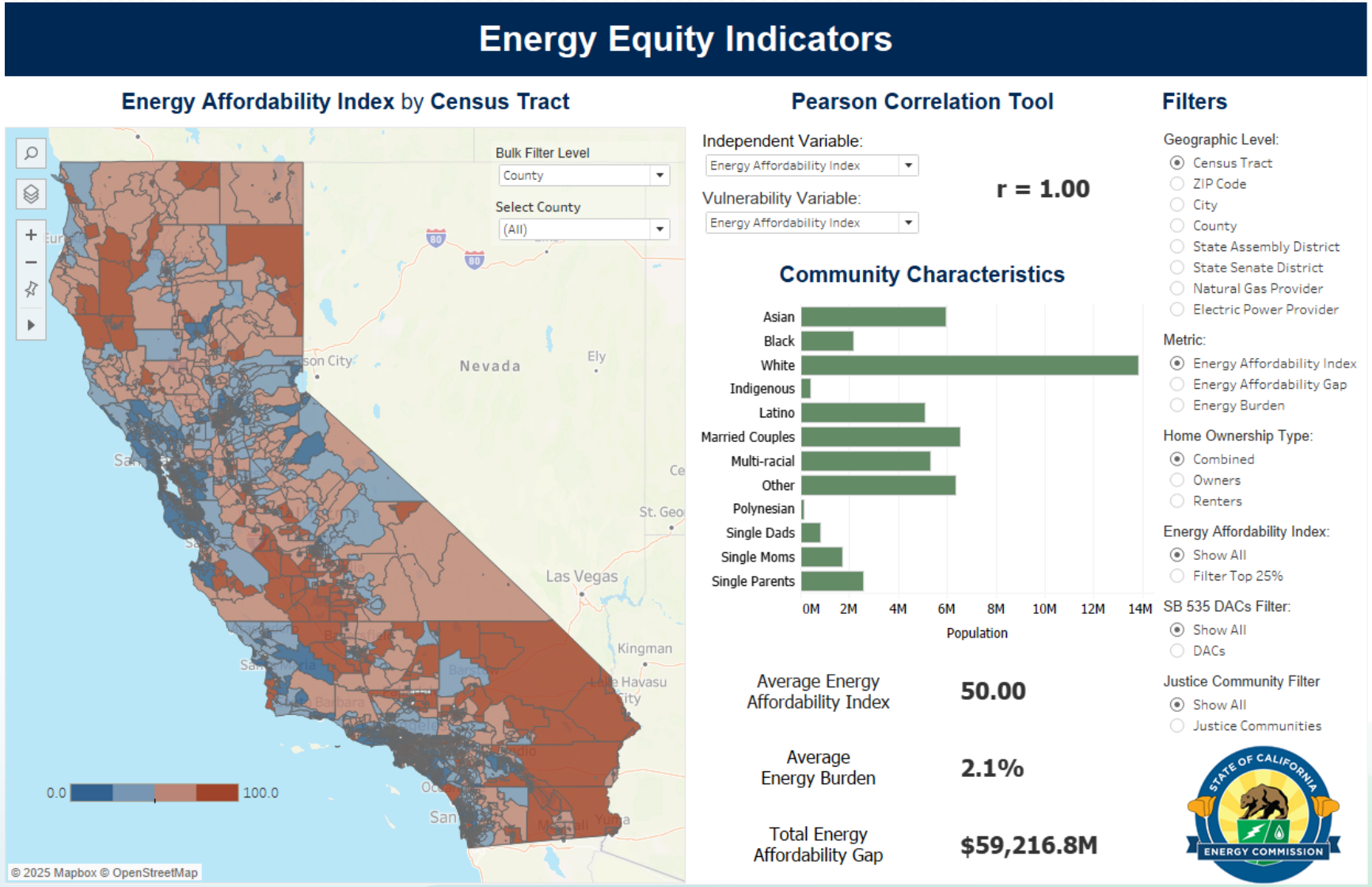
Energy Metrics

- Access
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Affordability
- Programs
- Clean Energy Adoption

Supplementary Metrics

- Community
- Health
- Safety
- Socioeconomics

Energy Equity Indicators (EEI) Tool



Energy Reliability Metrics in EEI

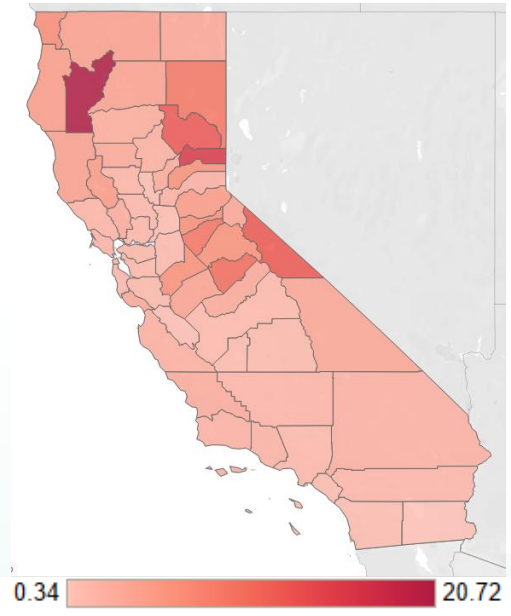
Northern California

- higher number of power outages
- higher total number of minutes without power

Trinity County

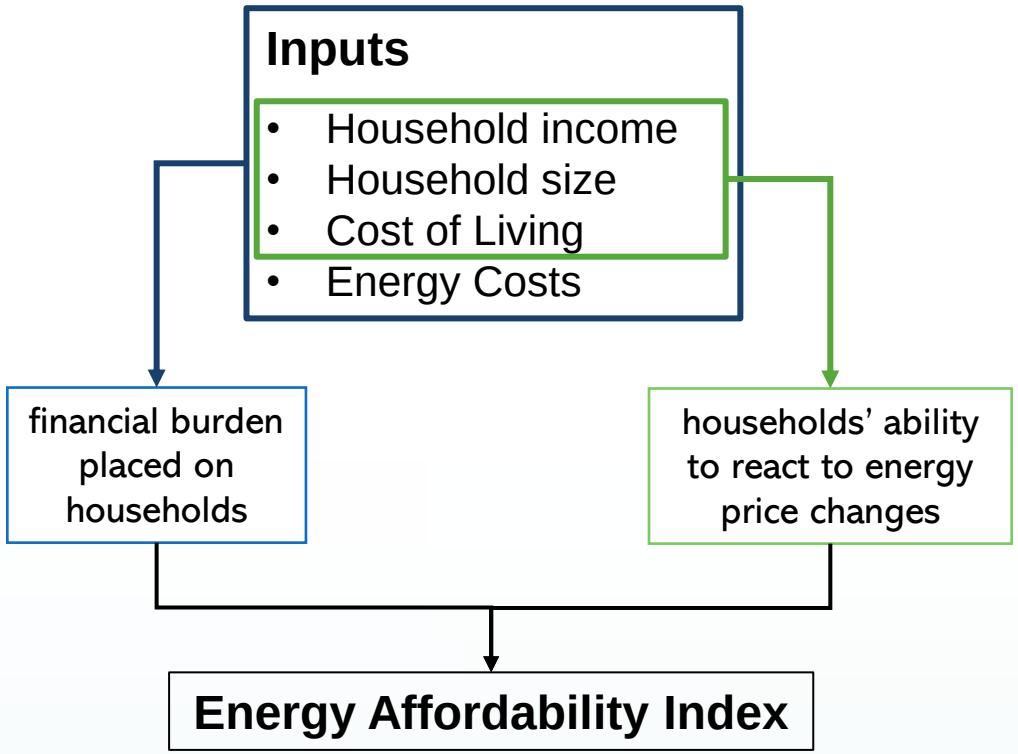
- highest number of outages per customer per year at 20.72
- total minutes without power more than 1,000 times higher than elsewhere in state (approximately 15 days vs 1.5 hours)

Average Number of Outages in 2022

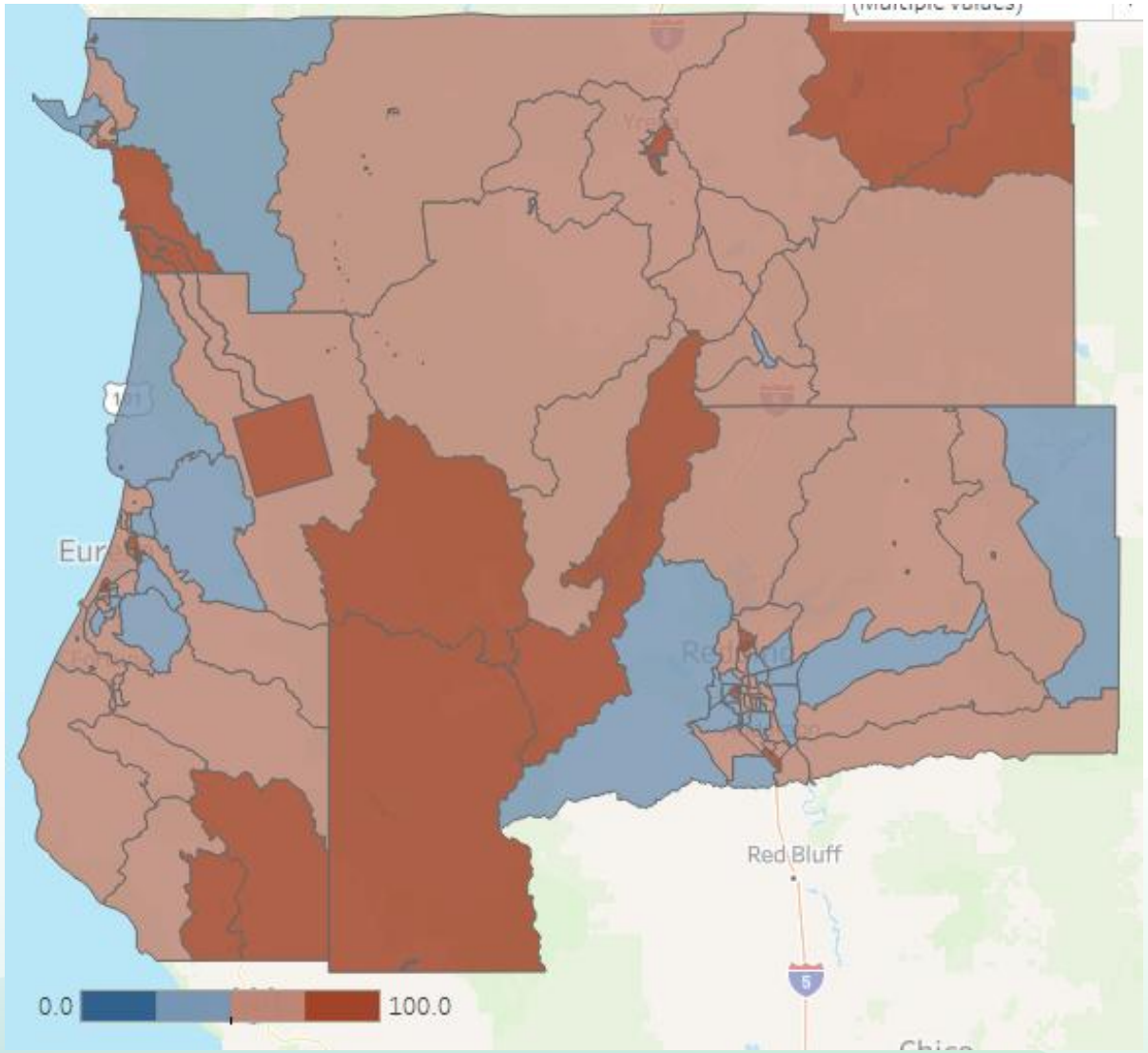


Average Total Minutes Without Power in 2022

Energy Affordability Metrics in EEI



Majority of North Coast affordability scores are on the less affordable half of the scale, with many of them lying in the top quartile



Discussion Guiding Questions on Energy Equity Indicators

- How could your tribe utilize these metrics or this tool?
  - Would it be useful for energy planning?
  - Would it be useful for grant funding?

- Are there any other uses that your tribe would find beneficial?
  - Are there features or metrics you would like to see added?

- Do you have any other thoughts on how Energy Equity Indicators can better meet tribal needs?

Thank You!

Tribal Energy Sovereignty

History of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty (Goals)

- **support** tribal self-determination, self-government, and **energy sovereignty**;
- **enhance tribal consultation** and participation in decision-making related to clean energy planning and development in California;
- **improve the protection of sacred sites**, cultural resources, and access to ancestral lands;
- **increase tribal access** to federal and state energy funding opportunities;
- **provide opportunities** for economic diversification, career development; and investment in renewable energy for California tribes;

Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty (Actions)

- enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with interested California tribes to establish **frameworks for collaboration** on key energy policy and planning initiatives;
- develop **capacity building** and technical assistance resources to support clean energy transitions, advance the development of tribal energy enterprises, and increase access to clean energy programs;
- increase **tribal set-asides** within State programs and funding opportunities;
- partner with California tribes to pursue **federal funding** opportunities;
- prioritize **community benefits** within programs, policies, and planning initiatives;
- enhance **land-use considerations** in clean energy planning for the protection of tribal cultural resources;
- increase cultural awareness and **knowledge of tribal priorities** among Commission staff to better inform the development of programs, policies, and planning initiatives.

Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty (Actions Related to Land)

- provide assistance to facilitate California tribal government access to existing **information concerning land that may be of interest** to California tribes, including the environmental condition of the land;
- encourage and support opportunities for entities with whom the Commission conducts business with or otherwise regulates or interacts, including, but not limited to, publicly owned utilities, to provide California tribes **access, use, and co-management of lands** and to work cooperatively with California tribes that are interested in acquiring lands in excess of State needs; and
- encourage and support local agencies, as defined by Government Code section 54221(a), with whom the Commission interacts, to **transfer ownership of surplus lands** with which California tribes have a cultural connection or are within a California tribe's ancestral land.

Where we are today…

State Funding Eligibility Expanded
- Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA)

Capacity Funds
- California Clean Energy Policy and Planning Program (CCEPP)
- Offshore Wind Capacity Fund

Tribal Set-Asides
- Tribal Specific Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (Tribal EBD)

Removing Funding Barriers
- Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, and Workforce Training and Development

Tribal Engagement in Planning
- Offshore Wind
- SB 100

What Would Be the Most Critical Thing to Include in the Draft Tribal Energy Sovereignty Policy? (Slide Co-Developed on 8/26/25)

- Would like to see tribal energy sovereignty policies adopted at CPUC level as well as other state agencies.
- More structural support re meetings with CEC, CAISO, CPUC.
- Convene inter-agency working group to coordinate tribal policies and streamline engagement opportunities, as tribal leaders attend many state meetings where they are asked the same questions. CNRA has a good structure to follow on tribal stewardship.
- Provide feedback and comments to current CPUC proceeding to show support for expanded policies.
- Work with tribal leaders to define energy sovereignty for themselves, as every tribe is different, to create a policy.
- Tribal energy sovereignty as meaning complete energy independence for tribes.
  - One hurdle to energy independence is the utility
  - Helpful and empowering if state takes position that supports tribes' ability to develop, and grow own energy infrastructure
- Need resources/funding to define what energy sovereignty is; funding for planning
- Respect and recognition of tribal laws
- More discussions on jurisdictional authority of tribal governments as regulators, how to dictate regulatory authority at the utility level and government level (regulatory framework)
- Applies to tribes self-determining their sovereignty
- Ensuring policy does not erode tribal sovereignty; respect tribal courts, sovereign immunity, tribal law.
- Recognize tribes as partners throughout the state re: state priorities. Include shared goals.

Assembly Bill 3: California Offshore Wind Advancement Act

Assembly Bill 3 Legislation

Assembly Bill 3 requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to author and submit two reports to the Governor and the Legislature.

Report 1: Offshore Wind Seaport Readiness Plan

- Second-phase plan and strategy for seaport readiness
- Build on recommendations and alternatives in the AB 525 strategic plan
- 10 requirements
- Due December 31, 2026

Report 2: In-State Assembly, Supply Chain, and Workforce Feasibility Study

- Study on the feasibility of achieving *50 percent* and *65 percent* in-state assembly and manufacturing of offshore wind energy projects and domestic content thresholds for offshore wind energy projects
- 13 requirements
- Due December 31, 2027

Foundational Reports from AB 525

More information on the CEC AB 525 Reports is available at https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/ab-525-reports-offshore-renewable-energy. The 2023 Alternative Port Assessment to Support Offshore Wind Final Report is available at https://slc.prod.sites.ca.gov/renewable-energy/commission-releases-alternative-port-assessment-to-support-offshore-wind-2/.

Report 1 Detail: Seaport Readiness

Offshore Wind Seaport Readiness Plan to include:

- Identification of feasible seaport locations
- Recommendations of port alternatives with specific land requirements
- Minimization of impacts to cultural and natural resources
- Maximization of in-state workforce opportunities
- Consideration of transportation and other infrastructure investments
- Collaboration with tribal governments
- Consultation with key stakeholders
- Collaboration with the vessel operators and commercial maritime industry
- Port costs including funding and financing strategies

Report 2 Detail: Supply Chain & Workforce Development

In-State Assembly, Supply Chain, and Workforce Feasibility Study to include:

- Current manufacturing capabilities
- Supply chain and workforce gaps
- Estimation of number and type of jobs
- Investments needed and available state funds
- Impacts to:
  - Economic activity
  - Job growth
  - Project development timing and costs
  - Electric ratepayers
- Recommendations incorporating equity and environmental justice into supply chain development
- Consultation and collaboration with tribal governments on workforce development opportunities
- Consultation with building and construction trades councils and interested parties

Documents for Public Review and Comment

Literature Assessment prepared by Aspen Environmental

- Reviews over 170 sources
- Identifies documents relevant to offshore wind ports, workforce, and supply chain development
- Summarizes information gaps
- Living document
- Tool to support public engagement

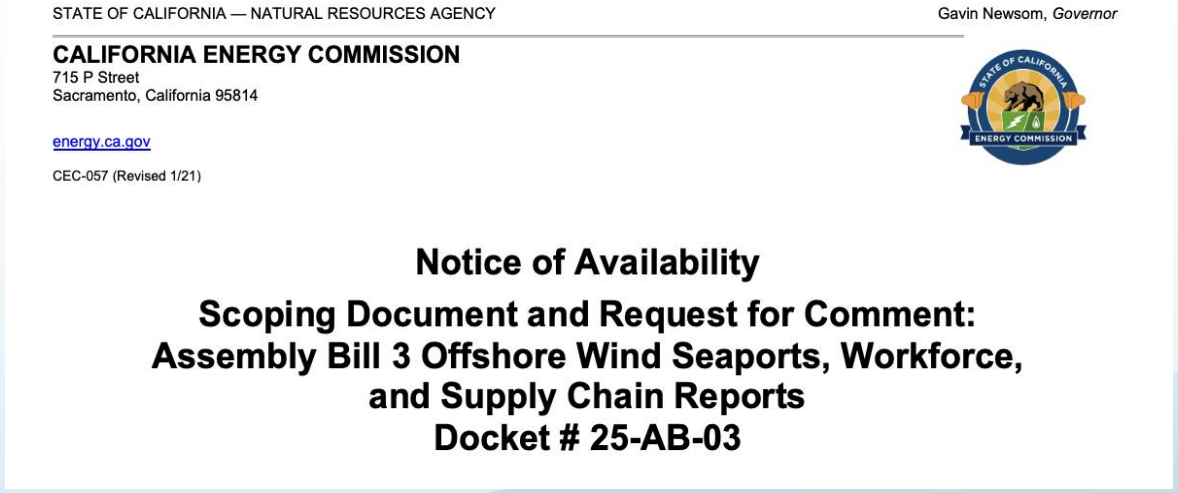
Scoping Document and Request for Comment

- Outlines the structure and approach the CEC will use to inform the reports.
- Public input will help identify data gaps, refine topics, and shape the structure and content of the reports as well as upcoming public workshops.

All materials are available on the workshop webpage: https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2025-06/staff-workshop-assembly-bill-3-scoping-reports-offshore-wind-seaports

Scoping Document

- Posted Scoping Document and Request for Comment on June 16, 2025
- Public comment period is open until close of business August 18, 2025
- AB 3 requirements are assigned a reference number (e.g. 1-1) and organized into key topics
- Information gaps for each topic are described
- Comments will help inform CEC approach to report development, engagement, and public process



STATE OF CALIFORNIA — NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

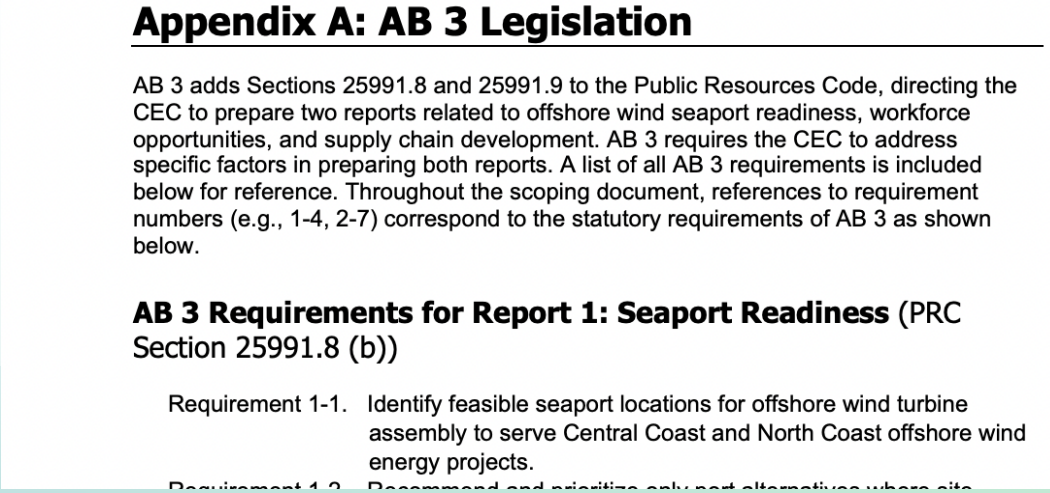
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)

Notice of Availability

Scoping Document and Request for Comment: Assembly Bill 3 Offshore Wind Seaports, Workforce, and Supply Chain Reports
Docket # 25-AB-03



Appendix A: AB 3 Legislation

AB 3 adds Sections 25991.8 and 25991.9 to the Public Resources Code, directing the CEC to prepare two reports related to offshore wind seaport readiness, workforce opportunities, and supply chain development. AB 3 requires the CEC to address specific factors in preparing both reports. A list of all AB 3 requirements is included below for reference. Throughout the scoping document, references to requirement numbers (e.g., 1-4, 2-7) correspond to the statutory requirements of AB 3 as shown below.

AB 3 Requirements for Report 1: Seaport Readiness (PRC Section 25991.8 (b))

Requirement 1-1. Identify feasible seaport locations for offshore wind turbine assembly to serve Central Coast and North Coast offshore wind energy projects.

Statutes including specific Tribal Government coordination

Report 1: Offshore Wind Seaport Readiness Plan

(4) Recommend and prioritize port locations that minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources, including the marine and onshore environments, sensitive species, and habitats.

(7) Collaborate with tribal governments to develop appropriate seaport siting criteria that minimize adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources and maximize economic and workforce benefits to the tribal governments.

Report 2: In-State Assembly, Supply Chain, and Workforce Feasibility Study

(10) Coordinate with tribal governments to develop recommendations for tribal workforce development opportunities.

Tribal Outreach and Consultation

- Invitation to Consult Letter Sent to statewide list on April 14, 2025
  - *The CEC welcomes requests for consultation at any time. The CEC will conduct all tribal consultation in accordance with the CEC's Tribal Consultation Policy (https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/tribal-program/tribal-consultation-policy).*
- Ocean Energy Tribal Working Group Meetings
- Listening Sessions
- Coordinate with CEC Tribal Energy Sovereignty Order Instituting Investigation Proceeding for regional in-person meetings

Public Engagement

- Hosted Kick-off Scoping Working on June 18, 2025: **Staff Workshop on Assembly Bill 3: Scoping Reports on Offshore Wind Seaports, Workforce, and Supply Chain**
- Public comment period closed on August 18, 2025
- Comments will inform the structure and content of future workshops as well as development of both AB 3 reports.
- CEC staff plans to hold workshops to support development of the AB 3 reports.
- Beginning with Report 1, the series will include topic-focused workshops, each of which will include public comment opportunities.

Follow Via Web, Email, and Events

- Report information
- Workshops and other engagements
- Subscription list & email
- Docket link
- Comments

More information is available on the AB 3 webpage: https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/assembly-bill-3-california-offshore-wind-advancement-act

GO-Biz Clean Energy Toolkit and Permitting Initiative

GO-Biz Clean Energy Permitting Initiative

CEC Tribal Affairs OIIP Regional Roundtable
08.26.2025

Drivers for Improved Process Efficiencies

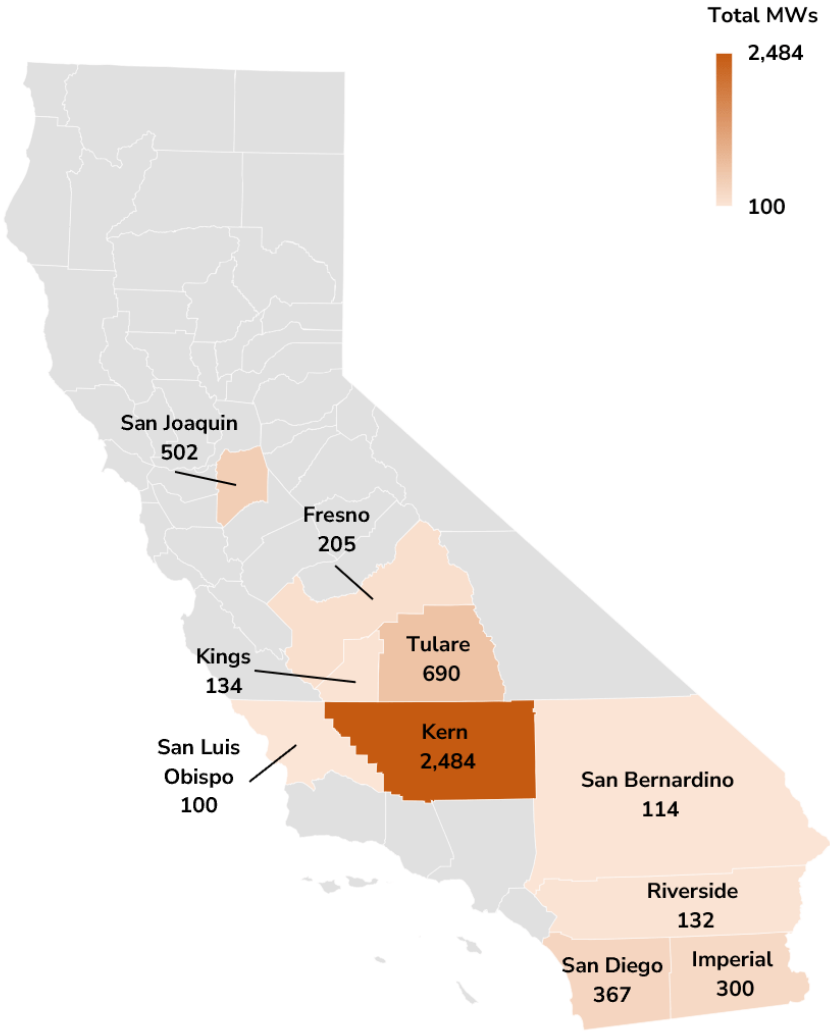
California's Energy and Climate Goals

- Decarbonize the state's electrical grid by 2045
- SB 100 estimates ~7,000 new MWs per year needed to achieve carbon-free electric grid

Expected Growth of Clean Energy Projects

- 2025 | ~6,800 MWs
- 2026-2028 | ~17,000 MWs

Expected MWs | 2025

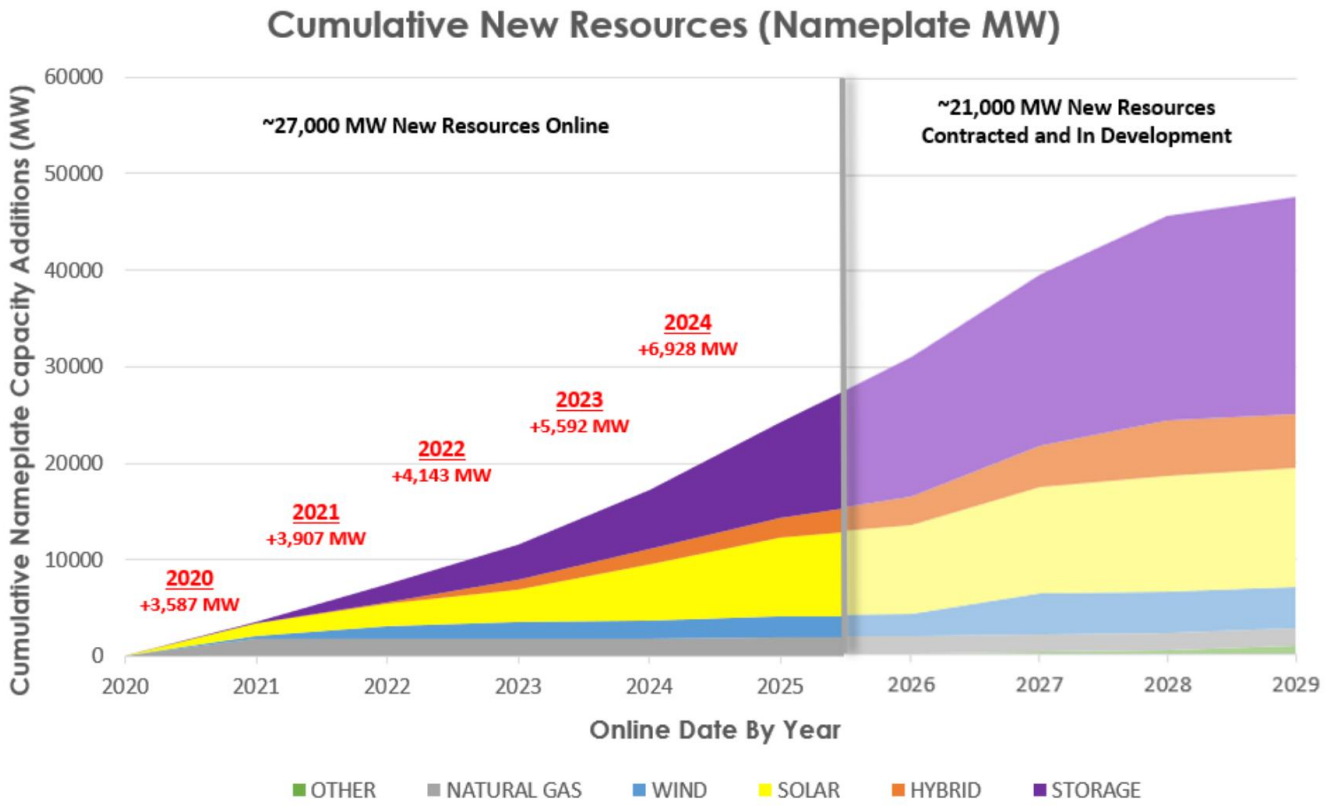


2025 | Top Counties by Expected Megawatts (MWs)

County	Expected MWs	Expected Projects
Kern	2,484	30
Tulare	690	6
San Joaquin	502	4
San Diego	367	5
Imperial	300	2
Fresno	205	4
Kings	134	3
Riverside	132	5
San Bernardino	114	1
San Luis Obispo	100	1

Clean Energy Projects Online and Expected

Total New Energy Resources Online and Under Contract

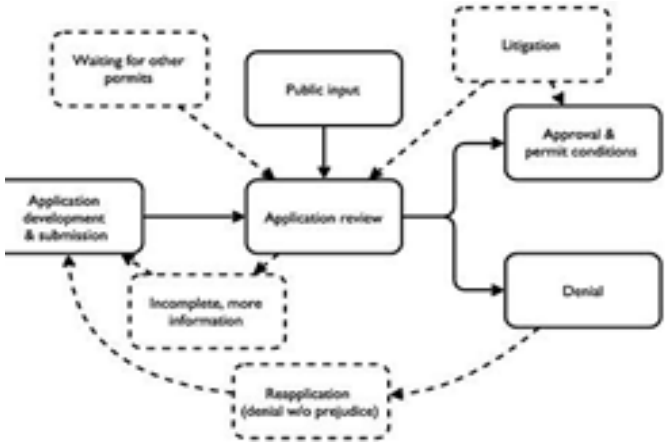


Source: CPUC

GO-Biz Clean Energy Permitting Playbook & Toolkit

PERMITTING ISSUES & DELAYS

- Local, state and/or federal
- Long environmental reviews
- Staff capacity/turnover
- Community opposition



OBJECTIVES & OUTCOME

- **Playbook:** compilation of information and best practices for components of the permitting process
- **Toolkit:** set of tools and resources for local permitting authorities to accelerate clean energy development across California

Permitting Playbook & Toolkit | Process & Timeline

Phase	*Jan - Apr 2025*	*Apr - Aug 2025*	*Sept - Nov 2025*
	Complete	**In Progress**	**In Progress**
	Discovery & Data Collection	**Playbook Development**	**Playbook & Toolkit Publication**
Activities	• Evaluate barriers in local permitting process • Engage stakeholders to understand permit “accelerators”	• Compile & develop permit accelerator best practices • Stakeholder feedback on playbook, tools, templates, guidance & reference material	• Launch Playbook & Toolkit

Stakeholder Outreach

Surveys, Interviews, Webinars, Focus Groups & Other Outreach

SURVEYS | 170+ completed

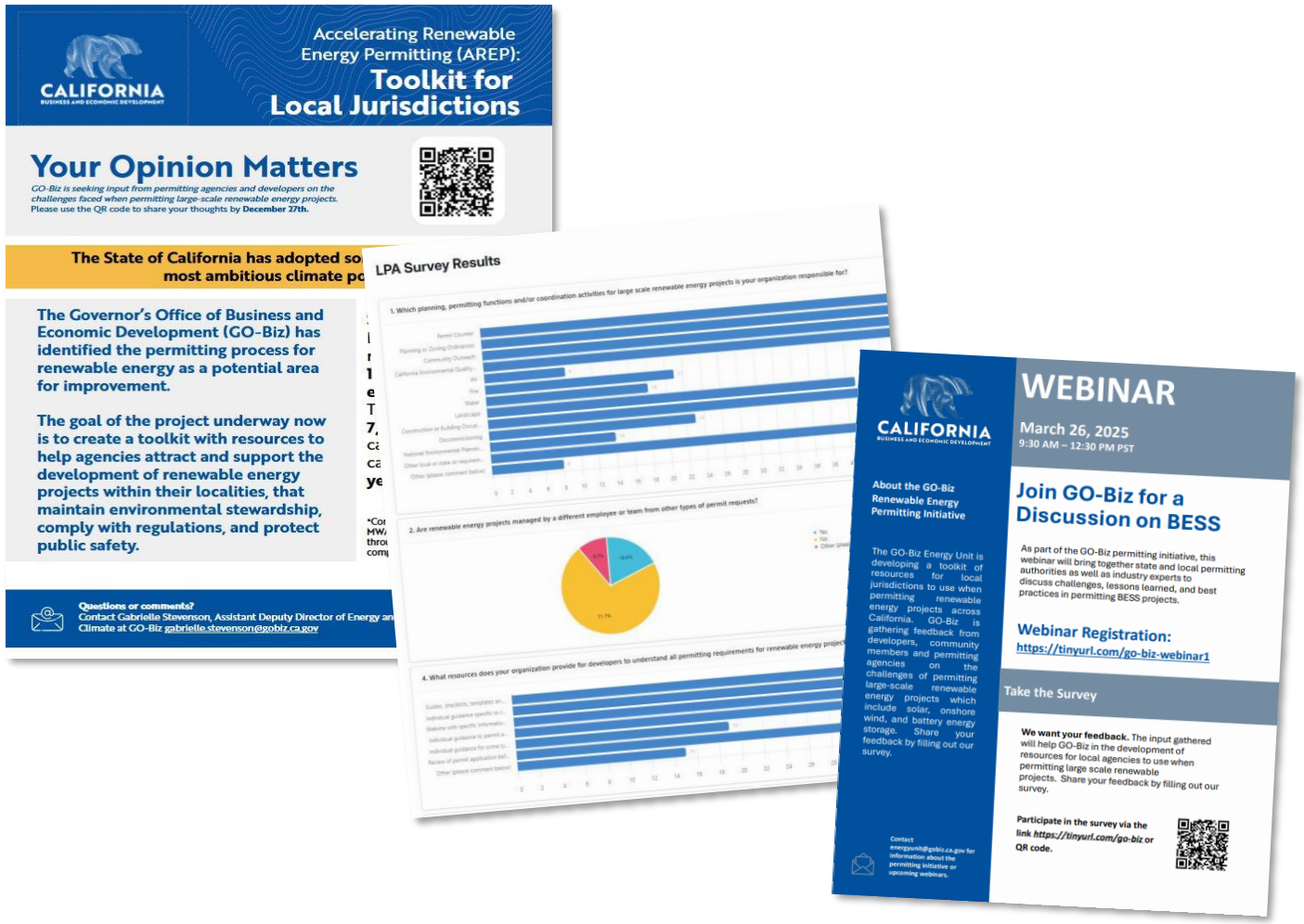
- Local Permitting Authorities
- Developers
- Community-Based Organizations
- Native American Tribes

INTERVIEWS, FOCUS GROUPS & CONSULTATIONS | 50+ completed

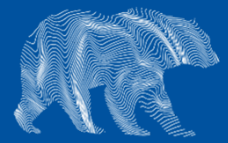
- Local Permitting Authorities
- Developers
- Trade Associations
- Native American Tribes
- Community-Based Organizations
- Fire Safety SMEs & Officials

WEBINARS & CONFERENCES

- REACH Inland Empire Conference (Dec 2024)
- GO-Biz BESS Webinar (Mar 2025)
- GO-Biz Playbook & Toolkit Webinar (Jun 2025)



Key Findings



Findings: Pain Points for Permitting Authorities

45% of local planners feel equipped to handle an influx of permit applications

Local Permitting Authorities

Workload & Experience

Planners:

- Have responsibilities across all types of projects (not just clean energy) permitting
  - Handle inquiries
  - Planning & zoning
  - Review applications
  - Procure 3rd party experts
  - Regulate construction
  - Coordinate across-agencies
  - Monitor building occupancy
  - Hold public hearings
  - Recommend projects to the Board

Technical Assistance

- Perform time intensive permit reviews - including multiple iterations for incomplete permits
- Experience varies on the power system and technical clean energy knowledge (e.g. BESS)
- Seek assistance to develop ordinances, codes, & standards (e.g. BESS fire safety)
  - Some counties have enacted temporary moratoria until ordinances addressing BESS safety can be developed

Stakeholder Navigation & Coordination

Largest impacts to project development & timelines:

- Assessing the project's wildlife, habitat, environmental impacts and mitigation determined by the state
- Community concerns including negative media coverage (e.g. BESS fires)
- Navigating and coordinating with other local (e.g. fire department) and state entities (e.g. CDFW)

Findings: Pain Points for Developers

87% of respondents indicated that “unnecessary delays could have been avoided”

Developers

Risk-Minimized Projects

Developers:

- Transmission access is a key factor in site selection
- Likelihood of permitting approval and clarity of permitting process and timeline are also key factors
  - 79% of developers avoid localities with unclear permitting processes
- File applications in multiple localities to maximize success given CAISO interconnection process and sites are often selected in advance of LPA notification

Environmental Review, Policy & Agency Navigation

- CEQA
- CDFW
- Williamson Act
- Local renewable project fees
- Expiry of state solar property tax exemption (2027)
- Community benefit agreements (offered by 61% of developers)

Local Permitting Barriers

Largest barriers to project development & timelines:

- Local permitting staff shortages & process delays
- Restrictive zoning ordinances and moratoria
- Inconsistent, changing, and/or unclear permitting guidelines
- Community opposition to local development
- AB205 CEC opt-in permitting process is additional mechanism to address local permitting barriers

Some Insights on Permitting on Tribal Lands

Local Permitting Authorities

- **Renewable development on tribal lands has accelerated in recent years compared to the historical trends**
  Solar and storage projects represent the largest portion of this development, with a few microgrid, bioenergy, and wind

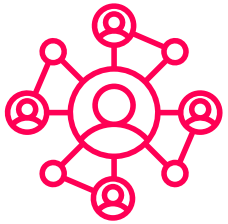
- **The treatment of the permitting process is different depending on whether the project is on tribal trust lands (NEPA), allotted lands (NEPA), or fee lands (CEQA)**

- **Federal and State permitting agencies are required to carry out consultations when projects are directly sited on tribal lands or sited off tribal lands but has the potential to impact tribal historic and cultural resources**

Permitting Accelerator Tools

Tools for Development

- Model ordinances for large scale clean energy projects
  - BESS, solar and onshore wind



- Alignment of community interests and statewide goals
  - Early & collaborative engagement between parties (developer, planner, community)

- Application resources and checklists
- Factsheets
- Clean energy development and permitting processes

Permitting Playbook & Toolkit | Process & Timeline

Phase	*Jan - Apr 2025*	*Apr - Aug 2025*	*Sept - Nov 2025*
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Activities	• Evaluate barriers in local permitting process • Engage stakeholders to understand permit “accelerators”	• Compile & develop permit accelerator best practices • Stakeholder feedback on playbook, tools, templates, guidance & reference material	• Launch Playbook & Toolkit

Next Steps & Q&A
Share your best practices!

Stay Connected

Sign up for the GO-Biz Climate & Clean Energy newsletter for updates, webinars and other announcements

https://business.ca.gov/climate-clean-energy-sign-up/

Feedback on the Clean Energy Permitting Initiative & Findings

Send your comments to energyunit@gobiz.ca.gov

California Tribal Gap Analysis Project (Draft Report)

California Tribal Gap Analysis Project

DRAFT REPORT RELEASE

CALTRIBALGAPANALYSIS.ORG

Agenda

- Introductions
- CTGA Background
- Input Opportunities
- Report Outline
- Recommendations
- Questions and Comments

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL GAP ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

- 2018 Tribal Energy Summit → Leftover ARRA funds → Tribal Government Challenge Statewide Gap Analysis
  - 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
  - Same fund source used for Tribal Government Challenge grants (aligned w/ ARRA guidelines for Local Government Challenge)
- Tribal Government Challenge Statewide Gap Analysis = California Tribal Gap Analysis
- Partnership with SGC → inclusion of climate change

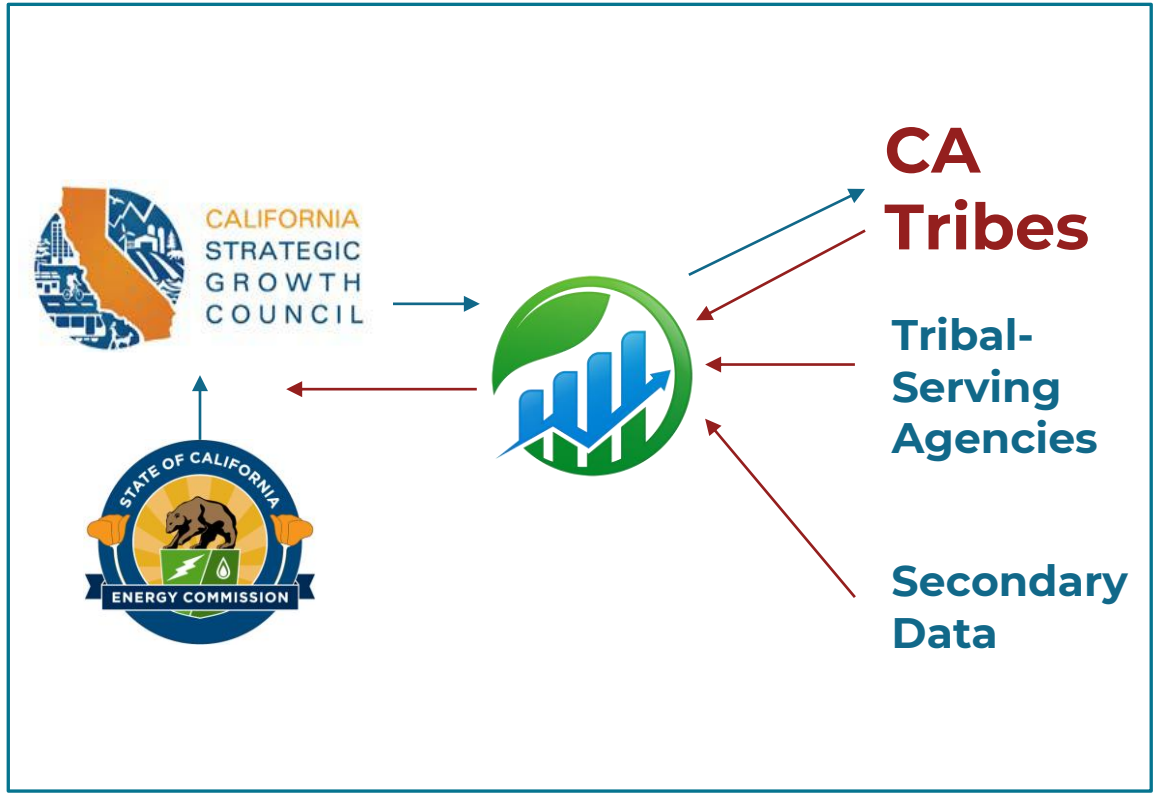
SCOPE

- Tribal gap analysis focused on: Clean Energy, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
- All California Native American Tribes
  - Including those without federal recognition or land holdings

CTGA

CALIFORNIA TRIBAL GAP ANALYSIS

COLLABORATING ON CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



GOALS

- Identify tribal priorities, needs, and barriers in clean energy and climate change adaptation and resilience
- Provide recommendations for State programs, funding, technical assistance, etc. to address needs
- Primarily informed and shaped by Tribal input
- Advance collaboration and build relationships between Tribes and State
- Inform future State clean energy and climate change programs for Tribes (funding, etc.) to address needs

CTGA Project Team

STATE COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

CONTRACTOR TEAM

Prosper Sustainably

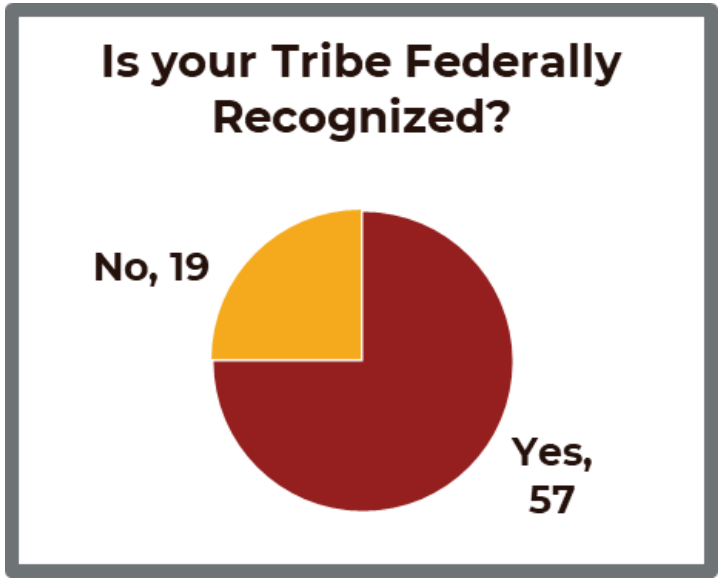
GCG POWERED BY VETS

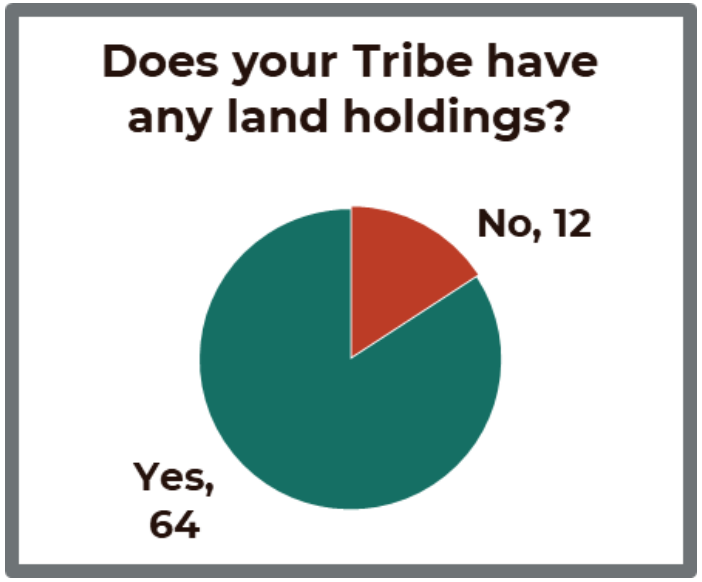
SCG Consulting

BURR ENERGY

UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

Respondent Titles/Roles	#
Environmental	30
Natural Resources	11
Energy or Utilities	3
Other Administrative Position	30
Council Member or Executive	25





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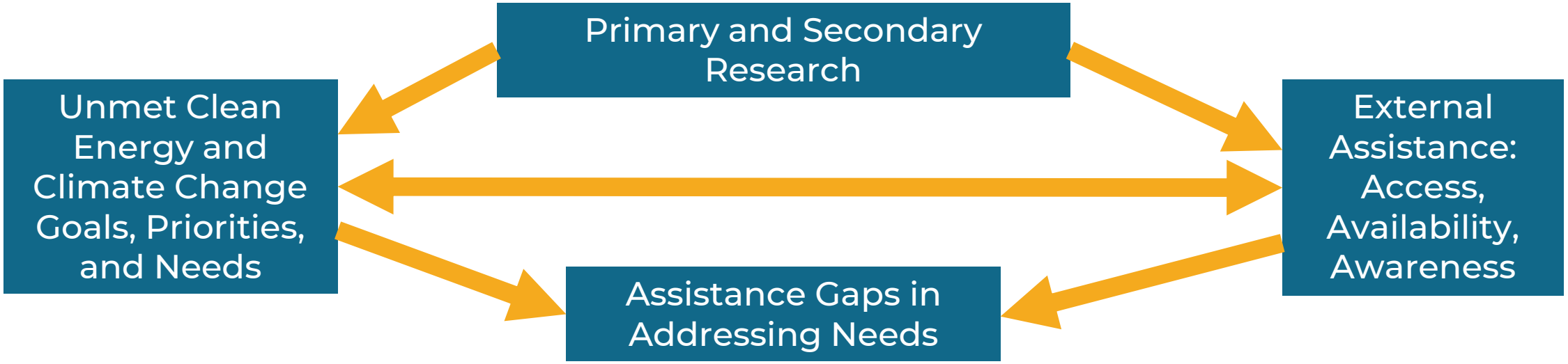
CALIFORNIA TRIBAL GAP ANALYSIS

COLLABORATING ON CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

What assistance gaps do California Tribes face in advancing goals and meeting needs? How can the State address those assistance gaps?



RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Improve Tribal Outreach, Communication, and Engagement
II. Improve Tribal Access and Utilization of Existing State Programs
III. Increase State Investments to Create/Expand Tribal Assistance Programs

Draft CTGA Report: Public Comment Period

- Download draft report at caltribalgapanalysis.org
- Provide feedback using this online form (by 10/24/2025):
  - Recommendations and Conclusions, particularly any additional recommendations and suggestions on how to make recommendations more actionable or successful
  - Barriers and assistance gaps that may have arisen since the study period of 2020 to 2022
  - Errors and omissions that do not change or affect the primary research data gathered from Tribes and other CTGA participants
  - Other feedback you have on the CTGA report
- Learn more and provide feedback during events
- Subscribe to CTGA/TECC email list to receive updates

CTGA Report Outline

- Foreword
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results and Analysis
- Survey Sample and Respondent Characteristics
- Tribal Clean Energy and Climate Change Needs
- Barriers and Assistance Gaps
- Recommendations and Conclusions
- Terms

CTGA Report Appendices

- Appendix A: CTGA Tribal Questionnaire
- Appendix B: CTGA Tribal Questionnaire Dropdown Response Options
- Appendix C: CTGA Key Outreach Activities
- Appendix D: CTGA Quality Control Statement and Plan
- Appendix E: Scoring Methodology for Multi-Part, Closed-Ended Questions
- Appendix F: CTGA Tribal-Serving Organization Questionnaire
- Appendix G: Map of California Tribes by 4th California Climate Change Assessment Region
- Appendix H: Climate and Natural Hazard Risk Factors for California Native American Tribes

CTGA Report Appendices

- Appendix I: Summary Statistics for CTGA Tribal Questionnaire Closed-Ended Questions
- Appendix J: All Response Scores for all Clean Energy and Climate Change Activities
- Appendix K: Subsets of Need Scores for all Clean Energy and Climate Change Activities – Federally Recognized Tribes, Non-federally Recognized Tribes, Tribes with Land, Tribes without Land, and All Tribes
- Appendix L: Climate Change Results by Region
- Appendix M: Research Recommendations
- Appendix N: Preliminary Assessment of Assistance Gaps in Top Need Areas
- Appendix O: Bibliography of Secondary Sources

Recommendations Areas

IMPROVE STATE-LED TRIBAL OUTREACH, COMMUNICATION, AND ENGAGEMENT

IMPROVE TRIBAL ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STATE PROGRAMS

INCREASE STATE INVESTMENTS TO CREATE AND EXPAND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Improve Tribal Outreach, Communication, and Engagement

- Increase Tribes' knowledge and awareness of assistance programs
- Maintain Tribal clean energy and climate program assistance database
- Conduct regular Tribal energy and climate meetings
- Improve Tribal relations, capacity, and training among State employees
- Improve State Tribal engagement policies and processes
- Empower Tribes to inform and shape programs and policies
- Centralize, streamline, and sustain interagency communications and engagement

Improve Tribal Access and Utilization of Existing State Programs

Eliminate requirements that undermine Tribal sovereignty, such as:

- Requiring waivers of sovereign immunity
- Imposing CEQA requirements on Tribal land
- Infringing on data sovereignty

Further assess Tribal access, challenges, and utilization of assistance programs such as:

- Expand eligibility including access to non-Tribal specific programs
- Expand Tribal set-asides and Tribe-specific grants
- Provide or eliminate cost-share requirements
- Provide guidance and technical assistance during solicitation periods
- Expand Q&A during solicitation periods

Remove unfunded plans and other requirements

Simplify, streamline, and coordinate grant solicitations

Reduce and simplify grants management requirements

Collaborate with Tribes on State climate change research

Use standard metrics for State agencies to track and report Tribal utilization of programs

Create/Expand Programs to Benefit Tribes and Build Capacity

Increase investments in top need areas	Increase flexible funding	Increase recurring funding	Offer funding and assistance for pre-development activities	Offer phased funding and assistance programs
Increase and expand technical assistance (TA)	Provide grant writing assistance	Increase funding for Tribal staffing	Increase Tribal staff training	Provide cost-share for federal grants
Provide low interest loans and loan guarantees	Fund initiatives to acquire ancestral lands	Fund basic and broader Tribal energy projects and initiatives	Create a centralized, evergreen inventory and pipeline of fundable projects	Establish Tribal-serving regional energy and climate hubs

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Thank You! Questions? Comments?

CALTRIBALGAPANALYSIS.ORG

INFO@CALTRIBALGAPANALYSIS.ORG

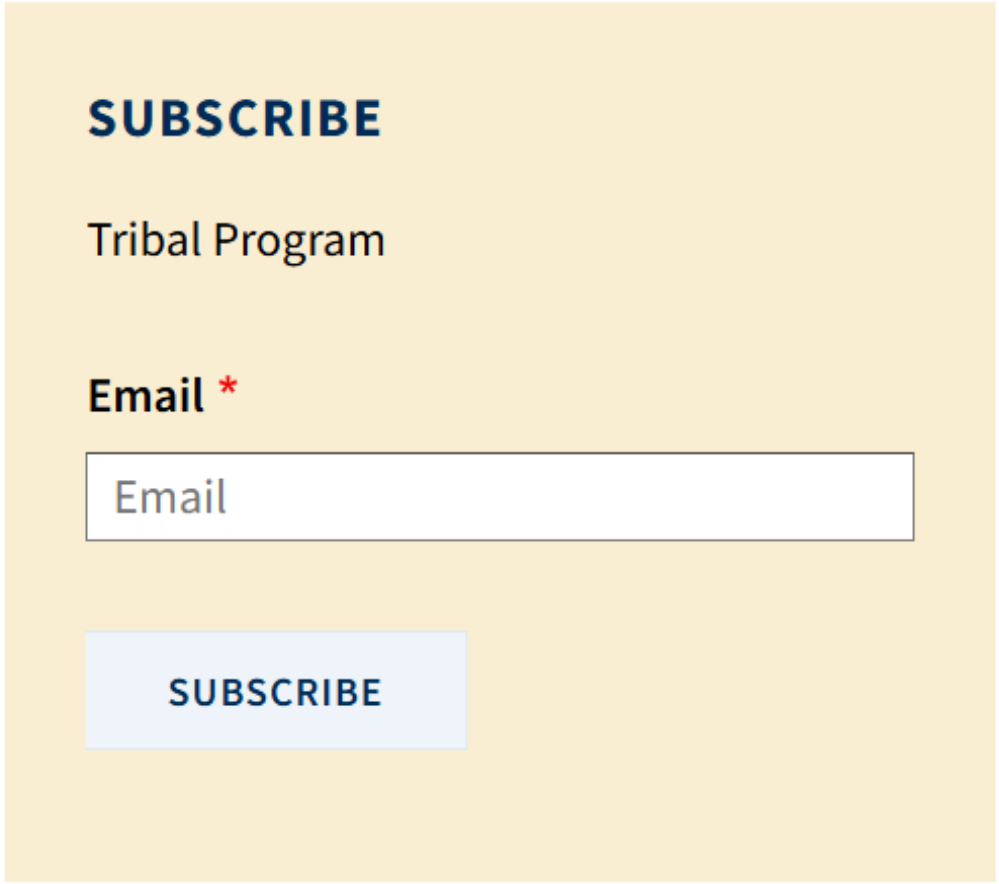
Closing Comments

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- Tribal Set-aside Equitable Building Decarbonization
  - ➢Currently in guideline review.
- Electric Program Investment Charge 5 (EPIC 5)
  - ➢Currently standing up outreach an engagement for the 5th investment plan.

Way to Stay Engaged

- Follow the proceeding around the state!
  - 10 more regional roundtables in Round 1!
- Sign-Up for the “Tribal Program” email list.
- Request tribal consultation
- Submit written comments to the docket.



Save the Date!

Next OIIP Regional Roundtable:

September 17, 2025 in Southern California!

Thank You!