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Recharging the DACAG

A Proposal for Increasing
Engagement & Effectiveness

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Introduction

The DACAG has significant potential to shape agency planning and investments impacting California's Disadvantaged Communities, but realizing more of the group's potential requires increased engagement and a more systematic approach to our work.

Engagement

Due to competing priorities, member participation is sometimes low and inconsistent as it relates to both attendance and active engagement with our subject matter. Agency and utility engagement is often reactive rather than planned or based on recurring or predictable efforts or processes.



Approach

DACAG meeting agenda-setting and our working groups are informal and operate without consistent processes, leadership, or measurable objectives.



Impact Measurement

We lack clear metrics around which we can engage and advise agencies to ensure planning and investment processes maximize equitable outcomes in DACs.



Goal

To generate discussion and build consensus around a renewed approach for engaging with our subject matter more proactively and systematically, respecting the real capacity constraints on members and agencies.

DACAG Working Groups & Priority Areas



Affordability and Disconnections



Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen



Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC)



Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility

Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning, and Distributed Energy Resources



Long-term Planning

Including SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids, and Broadband



Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation



Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation



Workforce Training and Development

Vision for an Engaged & Effective DACAG

A proactive, collaborative, and diverse advisory body driving accountability, transparency, and equitable inputs and outcomes across all priority areas through structured, empowered participation

Purposeful Engagement

Strategic focus on priority areas with clear goals, metrics, and timely inputs to agency processes

Collaborative Action

Shared responsibility between members, agencies, and utilities with defined expectations for all parties

Equity-Centered Impact

Measurable improvements in disadvantaged community outcomes across all policy areas

Accountable Progress

Tracking, reporting, and evaluating impacts with transparent communication of results

Empowered Members

Active member participation supported by agency leads, information, and data

Continuous Improvement

Regular evaluation of effectiveness with adaptability to evolving needs and challenges

Member Obligations

Setting clear expectations for DACAG member participation enhances accountability, elevates the quality of engagement, and ultimately drives greater impact on agency decision-making and equity outcomes.



Regular Attendance

- ☐ Attend at least 80% of full DACAG meetings annually
- ☐ Participate in assigned Working Group meetings
- ☐ Provide advance notice when absence is unavoidable



Preparation

- ☐ Review all pre-meeting materials
- ☐ Complete any required pre-work or research
- ☐ Submit agenda items in advance
- ☐ Stay current on priority area developments



Active Participation

- ☐ Contribute substantively to discussions
- ☐ Volunteer for Working Group leadership roles
- ☐ Engage constructively with differing viewpoints
- ☐ Share community perspectives and knowledge



Communication

- ☐ Support info-sharing between working groups and general meetings
- ☐ Elevate community needs and concerns
- ☐ Share expertise openly and constructively

Agency & Utility Obligations

To ensure the success of DACAG's reinvigorated approach, agencies and utilities should commit to the following:

Timely Data Sharing

Proactively share relevant work, data, and planning documentation related to each priority area with appropriate WGs

Proactive Agenda Support

Identify and propose agenda items aligned with recurring processes, critical decision points, and key regulatory milestones

Define Metrics & KPIs

Collaborate with WGs to define meaningful focal metrics and KPIs that track equity impacts in each priority area

Accountability Cycle

Participate in regular impact reporting, tracking progress on recommendations, and providing transparent feedback to DACAG

Agency Staff Commitments:

Ideally, agency leads will be designated for each working group to ensure consistent communication, resource allocation, and implementation of DACAG recommendations where possible. This partnership approach transforms DACAG from a reactive advisory body into an active participant in agency decision-making and success.

Systematic Working Group Approach

A structured approach that transforms working groups from passive/reactive information receivers and happenstance feedback providers to active drivers of agency accountability and equity outcomes.

WG Leadership Structure

Each working group should review membership, confirm its lead(s) responsible for coordinating activities, reporting progress, and ensuring accountability. Groups can consider rotating leads to prevent burnout and share leadership opportunities.

Regular & Standardized WG Meetings

Establish predictable meeting schedules aligned with agency processes and regulatory cycles to ensure timely input and maximum impact. Use standardized meeting agenda templates, take shared notes, ensure action items and owners are clear.

Subject-Matter Scoping

Clear definition of working group scope, objectives, and annual priorities tied to measurable equity outcomes.

Data Driven Subject Matter Advisory

With defined metrics aligned with each WG's goals and priorities, regularly review progress against baselines in WG and monthly meetings to inform agency planning and investment decisions.

Communication Structure

WG ↔ Monthly “Plenary”

Standardized reporting template and dedicated agenda time in plenary meetings by WG, ensuring intentional treatment each year/term

WG ↔ Agencies

Direct agency liaisons assigned to each working group

Cross-WG Collaboration

Coordination across related WGs or topics, careful of B-K guardrails (no quorum in WG meetings)

Onboarding Protocol

Structured orientation for all new WG members with clear role expectations, history of issues, and current priorities

Metrics, KPIs & Accountability

Establishing clear measurement systems ensures accountability and demonstrates impact across all priority areas.



Baseline Measures

Define starting points for each priority area with clear metrics that can be tracked over time



Attendance & Engagement

Track member participation in meetings, working groups, and contribution to outputs



Progress Reporting Template

Standardized quarterly reports from agencies and working groups to ensure consistent tracking



Public Accountability Dashboard!?

Transparent reporting of key metrics, actions, and outcomes accessible to all stakeholders

Annual Review Cycle

Comprehensive assessment of impact across all priority areas, with:

- Annual impact assessment report
- Structure and process improvement review
- Refinement of metrics and measurement approaches
- Public-facing accountability reporting

Prospective Implementation Roadmap & Timeline

A phased approach to reinvigorating the DACAG with clear milestones and deliverables:

Immediate (Next 30 Days)

- ☐ Discuss and build consensus for updating our approach
- ☐ Confirm working group leads and agency liaisons
- ☐ Develop template documents for WG meeting agendas, goals, metrics, and reporting
- ☐ Schedule regular WG meetings

0-3 Months

- ☐ Establish key WG-level goals
- ☐ Define baseline metrics for each priority area
- ☐ Begin regular WG meeting cycles with standardized agendas
- ☐ Inventory relevant agency planning and investment processes
- ☐ Initiate initial agency data sharing

3-6 Months

- ☐ Conduct first KPI review and progress assessment
- ☐ Implement cross-WG learning and collaboration sessions
- ☐ Adjust processes based on initial implementation learnings

Annual Cycle

- ☐ Comprehensive impact assessment across priority areas for inclusion in DACAG Annual Report
- ☐ Structure and process improvement review
- ☐ WG leadership rotation and refresh
- ☐ Strategic planning for next annual cycle

Questions & Discussion

We invite your feedback and questions on the refined DACAG management framework:

Concerns & Opportunities

- What's your general feedback about this proposal?
- What aspects of this framework do you find most challenging or beneficial?

Commitments

- What additional support do you need to be able to attend each meeting?
- If scheduled collaboratively, are you willing and able to commit to attending additional working group meetings?
- Do you need to decrease the number of working groups you're signed up for if those meetings became more regularly?
- Are you open to partnering with agencies to lead a working group?

Ideas for Implementation

- What ideas do you have for improving this proposal?
- What other ideas and suggestions do you have for increasing engagement and effectiveness?

Measuring Success

- What support do we need from agencies and utilities to measure effectiveness in their DACs-relevant planning and investments?
- How should we evaluate the effectiveness of these changes?