

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

)	
Business Meeting)	Docket No. 25-BUSMTG-01
_____)	

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

In-person at:

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY BUILDING
 715 P STREET
 FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
 (Wheelchair Accessible)

The California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda proposed. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors. Commissioners may attend remotely in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2(j).

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to two minutes or less per person.

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<https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings>.

Reported by:
 Martha Nelson

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Ryan Young, Deputy Public Advisor

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Fitzpatrick, Sierra Club

Basil Wong, Silicon Valley Power

Kelly Nguyen, Pasadena Water and Power

Jim Hodgson, CEO, CHEERS

Adam Stern, Executive Director, Offshore Wind California

Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Oceantic Network

Ericka Lozon, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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P R O C E E D I N G S

10:03 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

(Whereupon an introduction video is played and not
transcribed.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Good morning and welcome
friends. I'm David Hochschild. Today is November 12th. I
call this meeting to order. Joining me are Vice Chair
Gunda, Commissioner McAllister, Commissioner Gallardo and
Commissioner Skinner. We have a quorum.

Let's begin by standing for the Pledge of
Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited in unison.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Before we take general public
comment, I want to make the following announcement and
order regarding the business meeting agenda. For Items 8
and 9 on today's agenda, instead of considering them today,
we will be adjourning the business meeting pursuant to
Government Code 11128-5. We will reconvene and adjourn a
meeting scheduled for November 17th at 2:00 p.m. in Media
Room 2-201 on the second floor of this building, the
California Natural Resources Building. At that meeting, we
will consider Items 8 and 9 on today's agenda. This order
of adjournment and a notice of the adjourned meeting will
be posted on our webpage and in the business meeting docket

1 and physically outside this room within 24 hours.

2 With that, we'll now take public comment and then
3 move on to agency announcements. Our Public Advisor will
4 provide the instructions.

5 MS. BADIE: Good morning. My name is Mona Badie.
6 I'm with the Energy Commission's Office of the Public
7 Advisor, Energy, Equity, and Tribal Affairs.

8 The Commission welcomes public comment at its
9 business meetings. We are here to serve all Californians
10 and all are welcome here. There will be multiple
11 opportunities for public comment today.

12 This first public comment period is an open
13 public comment period for any item on the agenda. If you
14 are not able to stay and make comments for the dedicated
15 public comment period or you are commenting on a non-voting
16 item, such as an information item like item 4. And we're
17 asking that if you are here for a specific item that you
18 wait for that dedicated public comment period to make your
19 comments so we can hear them all together. And then the
20 only exception for that would be item 4 which is an
21 information item. All right.

22 And then we've got multiple ways you can let us
23 know you'd like to comment. If you're in the room with us,
24 we're asking folks to use the QR code. It's posted in the
25 back of the room. We also have staff available to support

1 you signing up for public comment in the room. And if
2 you're on Zoom, we'll use the raise-hand feature, It looks
3 like an open palm on your screen, or star 9 if you're
4 joining us by phone. And I'm just going to check our in-
5 person queue. All right.

6 And then we don't have any commenters in person
7 so I'm going to transition over to Zoom. All right, Mary
8 Fitzpatrick, I'm going to open your line. Please unmute on
9 your end. Just a reminder, we are asking for comments to
10 be two minutes or less. There will be a timer on the
11 screen.

12 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you very much. My name
13 is Mary Fitzpatrick and I'm here today on behalf of the
14 Sierra Club.

15 I oppose the Southern California Public Power
16 Authority's attempt to expand gas generation capacity at
17 the Magnolia Power Plant. And I urge the Commission to
18 reject the item number 8 petition to amend.

19 California has a mandate under SB 100 and SB 887
20 to phase out methane plants and to rely increasingly on
21 clean energy sources. And in fact, we are close to 50
22 percent generation of clean wind, water, and solar at this
23 time, and by 2036, we will reach 100 percent. The proposed
24 amendment would prolong the retirement of Magnolia for up
25 to 20 years and add to the rate base that is already

1 overburdening customers. Moreover, it would add to the
2 pollution burden of Magnolia's neighbors by increasing NOx,
3 VOCs, and carbon monoxide emissions.

4 The CEC has a responsibility to the ratepayers
5 and the residents of Burbank who deserve clean air to
6 reject the number 8 petition.

7 Thank you for affording me the opportunity to
8 speak.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, ma'am. Just a
10 reminder, we're going to be taking up that item at our
11 November 17th meeting at 2:00 p.m., which will be here in
12 Media Room 2-201 on the second floor of this building, but
13 that item has been postponed. So any other public comments
14 for Items 8 or 9 on the agenda, we will ask you to come
15 comment on November 17th when we will be voting on those.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair. There are no other
18 raised hands for this item. Back to you.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. With that, we'll turn
20 now to agency announcements.

21 I want to recognize that November is Native
22 American Heritage Month. And we've had a number of events
23 around the state to recognize the rich cultural heritage
24 and contributions of tribes and tribal members to the state
25 of California. And of course, we're working very hard at

1 the Energy Commission to advance and support tribal energy
2 sovereignty. Commissioner Gallardo and I are in the middle
3 of doing 11 tribal consultations around the state, which
4 have been really, really fruitful.

5 So I also want to acknowledge, yesterday was
6 Veterans Day, and give our thanks to the veterans of
7 California and this country for their service.

8 Finally, at today's meeting, we're going to be
9 seeking to approve approximately \$90 million of investments
10 contributing to California's economy.

11 And with that, let me just open up to any
12 announcements from my colleagues, Commissioner Gallardo.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Buenos dias. Good
14 morning. Oops. Buenos dias. Good morning, everybody. I
15 do have a couple of announcements.

16 First off, I wanted to invite everybody to the
17 Clean Energy Hall of Fame Awards. We have that planned for
18 December 4th, 2025, so in a little bit, from 3:00 to 5:00
19 p.m. here at CNRA. It's a wonderful event where we
20 celebrate local leaders throughout the state who are
21 contributing to helping the Energy Commission get to an 100
22 percent clean energy future. So we want to showcase those
23 winners on the next slide.

24 We have six total. One is a Lifetime Achievement
25 Award, Marty Turock from San Diego. We have a Youth Game-

1 Changer Award. That's Judith Gomez from Porterville,
2 California. We have a Tribal Champion, Chairman Moke Simon
3 from Middletown, California, representing the Middletown
4 Rancheria of Pomo Indians. And then we have three Clean
5 Energy Champions, Kameale Terry from Los Angeles. She's
6 the CEO and co-founder of ChargerHelp!. We have Jaime
7 Lemus, who's the Director of Transportation and Climate
8 Change Division at Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
9 Management District, so from Sacramento. And then we have
10 Dr. Cassandra Little from Fresno, who's the CEO of the
11 Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce.

12 So we invite you all to help us celebrate these
13 six champions who are doing tremendous work throughout the
14 state.

15 That's it, Chair. Thank you.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

17 Any other agency announcements from my
18 colleagues? Okay.

19 With that, we'll turn next to Item 3, the Consent
20 Calendar.

21 Is there public comment on Item 3?

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair.

23 The Commission welcomes public comment on Item 3
24 at this time. It's the Consent Calendar. If you'd like to
25 comment in the room, please visit the QR code at the back

1 of the table. Also, if you are here to comment on any
2 other item, you may also add your name to the item at this
3 time. It does help us prepare in advance. And then if
4 you're on Zoom, please use the raise-hand feature or star 9
5 if joining by phone.

6 All right. And I don't see anyone in the room.
7 And I'm not seeing any raised hands on Zoom. So back to
8 you, Chair.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. With that, unless
10 there's any Commissioner discussion --

11 MS. BADIE: I'm so sorry, Chair. There was a
12 hand that went up right at the end when I was --

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Yeah, please. Please
14 go ahead.

15 MS. BADIE: If someone raised their hand and it
16 was for Item 3, if you could please raise your hand again?
17 I don't know if that was a mistake.

18 All right, maybe that was a mistake. Thanks,
19 Chair.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Unless there's any
21 discussion, I'd welcome a motion from the Vice Chair on
22 Item 3.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, move Item 3.

24 THE COURT: Is there a second --

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: -- from Commissioner
2 McAllister? All in favor, say aye.

3 Vice Chair Gunda?

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

10 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
12 3 passes unanimously.

13 We will turn now to Item 4, which is an
14 information item, Winter 2025-26, California Gas
15 Reliability Assessment.

16 MR. ORTA: Good morning, Chair Hochschild, Vice
17 Chair Gunda, and Commissioners. My name is Jason Orta, and
18 I am the Acting Supervisor of the Gas Unit at the Energy
19 Assessments Division here at the California Energy
20 Commission.

21 Next slide, please.

22 CEC staff prepared a gas reliability assessment
23 for the transmission systems of PG&E and SoCalGas for the
24 coming winter. The CEC staff report assesses the risk of
25 curtailment for PG&E and SoCalGas. This includes staff

1 analysis of expected supply and demand conditions from
2 November 2025 through March 2026. Additionally, this
3 assessment includes estimates of gas storage withdrawals
4 and quantities of gas in storage.

5 Next slide, please.

6 In addition to assessing supply infrastructure,
7 including pipelines and storage, this analysis includes
8 peak day and monthly demand forecasts prepared by my
9 colleagues in the Demand Analysis Branch. Those forecasts
10 are incorporated into simulations of this PG&E and SoCalGas
11 systems. For the SoCalGas system, staff prepared a
12 stochastic model to estimate hourly supply and demand
13 during a peak day on the SoCalGas system.

14 Next slide, please.

15 CEC staff finds that curtailments are preventable
16 on the PG&E system. However, withdrawals from
17 independently owned storage facilities are feasible and
18 will support reliability this winter. However, staff's
19 analysis of ISP withdrawals is limited due to those terms
20 not being public, and also these facilities are not covered
21 under any reliability standards, but withdrawals are taking
22 the form of a market play that enables some customers to
23 procure gas more economically. However, PG&E may procure
24 storage withdrawal services from the ISPs.

25 Additionally, supporting PG&E reliability is

1 significant pipe inventory. As you can see on the map
2 here, its gas system runs from the border of California
3 with Arizona and that border with Oregon as well.

4 Next slide, please.

5 SoCalGas can meet winter peak demand without
6 curtailment. Recent restored capacity on their system can
7 be used to help meet peak demand. Due to updated federal
8 guidance, SoCalGas completed a pipeline assessment over a
9 year earlier. And two years ago, the CEC -- the CPUC,
10 excuse me, restored capacity at Aliso Canyon to 69 billion
11 cubic feet.

12 Next slide, please.

13 This analysis concludes with a high-level
14 discussion of fossil gas prices. While prices increased in
15 the winter due to increased space and water heating demand,
16 recent October EIA projections show lower increases in
17 prices relative to the analysis prepared a month earlier in
18 September. This is due to high storage levels throughout
19 North America and higher than expected production.
20 However, in the coming years, the expectation is that
21 increased liquefied natural gas exports will occur in the
22 coming years.

23 Next slide, please.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

1 Let's go to Commissioner discussions, starting
2 with the Vice Chair.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair.

4 Jason, thank you so much for the presentation. I
5 want to just uplift, you know, the gas units work over the
6 last three to four years, improving the analysis,
7 especially looking at those critical times of the year, but
8 also the, you know, highest levels, you know, in terms of
9 the day and how that would impact our gas reliability.

10 I think, you know, I also want to uplift the work
11 that you all do on the price forecast, understanding the
12 spots and how that impacts the overall prices in
13 California.

14 A couple pieces for just our, you know, general
15 awareness. You know, the demand forecast is beginning to
16 show that the winter peaks on the electric demand are going
17 to be as high as the summer peaks by 2035. Our hope is to
18 meet much of that using storage and kind of, you know, deal
19 with the ramping in the winter, but it's going to be a
20 significantly different portfolio. And as we see the
21 natural gas fleet usage, it's typically, you know, in late
22 summer, you know, during those peaks, and they'll probably
23 see more and more in the winter as well.

24 So it becomes even more important to think about
25 how this transition is happening and how the reliability is

1 going to be met, especially in this context of mid
2 transition that we've been talking about. So I want to
3 thank you and the entire team, you know, and just wanted to
4 frame maybe a couple questions quickly, Jason.

5 You know, you just spoke about the Aliso Canyon.
6 Could you just maybe share a little bit update on the
7 coordination between CalGEM, us, and PUC on what we're
8 thinking about the Aliso and how that's progressing,
9 generally what's the trend there?

10 MR. ORTA: Well, there isn't anything very new to
11 report. I mean, we did have a staff workshop last week in
12 which the CPUC presented its biennial analysis of the
13 future of Aliso Canyon, and they project that based on
14 expected peak demand, that facility will remain open at
15 least into the early 2030s.

16 Another development that's fairly recent, it's
17 ongoing, is that we've had safety group staff working group
18 meetings with CPUC, CalGEM, and CEC staff to try to, you
19 know, look at safety issues, because as even though we are
20 pursuing a gas transition and lowering the use of that,
21 there's still the necessity to maintain a safe system,
22 which will entail costs for rate payers, but we're still
23 keeping that work going as well. And so we remain in
24 regular contact with colleagues over there and trying to be
25 as responsive to as many questions as possible.

1 And as far as the Aliso and other storage fields
2 role and reliability, well, once I exit here, we're gearing
3 up to do the Summer 2026 assessment, even though it's
4 winter for all of us. I live in the summer, and in the
5 summer, I live in the winter for gas reliability. So that
6 work is continuing, and we're always in close contact with
7 our colleagues from our sister agencies.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah. Thank you, Jason.
9 Again, thanks for all the great work that the team's doing.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, Commissioner Gallardo.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much, Jason.
12 Really appreciate the briefing and your presentation today,
13 and that you live in different seasons, you know, for the
14 benefit of Californians.

15 I was curious, you mentioned the safe system. Could
16 you go into that a little bit more?

17 MR. ORTA: Sure. You know, since natural gas is
18 a highly, obviously, combustible fuel, there's always the
19 need to deliver that fuel as safely and reliably as
20 possible. That means maintaining pressures across
21 transmission and distribution systems at safe levels, and
22 that, for an extensive system that runs through urban,
23 rural, and suburban parts of that state, of our state, that
24 entails some costs in terms of money and in terms of labor.

25 So that's an ongoing need, regardless of if the

1 system serves one person in a neighborhood or a whole
2 subdivision of homes.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I had a question. Just, you
5 know, the Trump administration is moving to aggressively
6 promote the export of LNG, and there's a risk, of course,
7 of price impacts domestically on that. And I'm just
8 curious, how vulnerable is the California market to price
9 impacts from your perspective, you know, as a consequence,
10 if we were to, you know, radically increase LNG exports,
11 for example?

12 MR. ORTA: Yeah, so that is something that we are
13 at risk of, you know, the commodity portion of the gas that
14 we pay for, because California is part of the North
15 American gas system, which is interconnected to a pipe in
16 Canada, the rest of the Continental United States and
17 Mexico. And even in recent years, we've seen, you know,
18 cold weather in the rest of the Continental United States
19 and pipeline freeze-offs.

20 And so the increased export of liquefied natural
21 gas would reduce the quantity that's available to customers
22 here in North America. So we would be subject to those
23 price, to potential price increases due to the increase of
24 that. And one of the things that we hope to keep an eye on
25 in the coming days, weeks, and months is to better quantify

1 and to better understand those impacts.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you.

3 Yeah, Commissioner McAllister.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, Jason, thanks --

5 MR. ORTA: You're welcome.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: -- for the
7 presentation. And I guess maybe just a quick reflection
8 about like how different a place we're in now than we were
9 maybe five or eight years ago, just having built so much
10 expertise in the team and the ability to, you know, model
11 much more extensively and sort of really sort of check
12 others' work. I think that's super powerful, and that's
13 our core competency, really, and I'm glad we're building
14 that muscle and making it stronger. So thanks for you and
15 the team.

16 I did have -- so, you know, maybe five-plus years
17 ago, there was a lot of discussion, I think, based on, you
18 know, really critical infrastructure problems that the
19 system was having, particularly down in the South. And I'm
20 wondering, lately I haven't heard much about it, but just
21 wanting to get your update of, you know, 235 and sort of
22 some of the other older, important, you know, backbone
23 infrastructure in the gas system and where sort of the
24 status is on that in terms of the investments and the
25 safety and sort of the difficult -- you know, there were

1 some runs that were difficult to access because the geology
2 of geography was difficult. And where does all that stand
3 today? Is that kind of past us or ongoing or --

4 MR. ORTA: Well, it's something that we are
5 continuing to keep an eye on. We look at it, we look at
6 the gas infrastructure on a daily basis and we report out
7 on it. As far as expected capacity in Southern California,
8 including Lines 235 and 4000 --

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

10 MR. ORTA: -- the expectation is, is that that
11 capacity will be roughly the same as it was in the last
12 winter. But, you know, I should add, in addition to my
13 presentation about this report, that all the normal caveats
14 apply --

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah. Yeah.

16 MR. ORTA: -- that if there is another problem,
17 that would impact the findings. But the SoCalGas system
18 does have still some robust storage capacity that can
19 address those needs.

20 But, you know, as I mentioned, there was -- the
21 inline inspection that was completed back in September was
22 covering part of that, what's known as the Northern Zone in
23 the SoCalGas system. So we are able to track that every
24 day. And then if something comes up, I'd also like to
25 thank my colleagues at SoCalGas for being responsive to

1 questions. We've made -- one of the things we want to do
2 is develop those relationships with our gas utility
3 colleagues so that if things do arise, we can engage them.
4 But compared to the last winter, the expected capacity on
5 the SoCalGas system is to remain the same. But we look at
6 things every day and we probably have an email coming out
7 any minute now, if not already, about updating what's going
8 on today.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Appreciate that
10 update.

11 MR. ORTA: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Unless there's further
14 comments, thank you so much. Much appreciated.

15 With that, we'll turn now to Item 5, Publicly
16 Owned Utility Integrated Resource Plans, and I welcome
17 Bryan Neff to present. Is Bryan joining remotely?

18 MS. BADIE: Sorry, Chair. Bryan is virtual, so
19 I'm going to promote him right now.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

21 MR. NEFF: Can you hear me?

22 MS. BADIE: Yes.

23 MR. NEFF: All right. Good morning, Chair, Vice
24 Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Bryan Neff and I work
25 in the Energy Assessments Division, leading the Publicly

1 Owned Utility Integrated Resource Plan review process.
2 Today, I'm presenting staff's review and executive director
3 determination for four POU IRPs, Imperial Irrigation
4 District, Glendale Water and Power, Pasadena Water and
5 Power, and Silicon Valley Power.

6 Next slide, please.

7 IRPs are comprehensive planning documents
8 prepared by utilities to help them manage their electricity
9 resource portfolios. As part of SB 350, the 16 largest
10 POU's are required to create IRPs every five years and
11 submit them to the Energy Commission. Staff reviews each
12 IRP to ensure it is consistent with state regulations as
13 documented in the POU IRP guidelines.

14 Staff then provides its recommendation to the
15 executive director, who provides a determination of
16 consistency. Staff's review and the executive director's
17 determination are made available for a 45-day public
18 comment period prior to being taken up at an Energy
19 Commission business meeting for adoption.

20 Next slide, please.

21 The guidelines follow statute as laid out in
22 Public Utilities Code Section 9621. This statute specifies
23 that the IRPs must demonstrate that the utility will meet
24 and address a variety of policy targets.

25 Next slide, please.

1 First utility today, Imperial Irrigation
2 District, or IID, in Southern California serves a combined
3 163,000 residential and commercial customers, as well as
4 800 industrial customers. Its projected annual growth is
5 roughly one percent for both energy consumption and peak
6 demand.

7 Next slide, please.

8 The graph shown on this slide is dependable
9 capacity by resource type, indicating how much resource
10 contributes to meeting peak demand. The two years shown
11 represent a range of the study period for this IRP, 2024
12 representing the current resource mix and 2030 representing
13 the future resource mix in that year. The graph
14 illustrates the overarching approach each utility is taking
15 to reliably provide power while also meeting policy goals.

16 As the graph shows, natural gas provides the most
17 dependable capacity in 2024 and is maintained for
18 reliability in 2030. IID also adds energy storage to
19 increase dependable capacity. Additionally, they increase
20 the amount of energy from geothermal and solar resources
21 during this period. IID has had a difficult time procuring
22 in-state wind resources but would strongly consider them if
23 they become available at an affordable price. Energy
24 storage was preferred as a more cost-effective technology
25 with planned investments in 250 megawatts of batteries in a

1 mix of four-hour and eight-hour duration.

2 The desert's high temperatures during summer
3 months have potential to strain local transmission and
4 distribution system capabilities with thermal overloads.
5 Therefore, IID is also investing in upgrades to its
6 transmission and distribution system to alleviate these
7 constraints.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Glendale Water and Power serves a combined 90,000
10 residential and commercial customers in the City of
11 Glendale. Its load growth is roughly 1.3 percent for both
12 its net energy consumption and peak demand.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Glendale's resource portfolio is anchored by its
15 two natural gas-fired facilities, Magnolia and Grayson, but
16 also receives energy from a variety of renewable resources
17 as well as from nuclear power from Palo Verde.
18 Intermountain Power Plant's switched from coal to natural
19 gas this summer eliminates coal from Glendale's portfolio.
20 Glendale anticipates partial fueling of IPP with hydrogen
21 by 2030. Glendale will also invest in solar, geothermal,
22 wind, and storage to add to its renewable portfolio.

23 Glendale City Council directed their plan to have
24 zero carbon emissions by 2035. Like many POU's in the L.A.
25 Basin, Glendale is challenged by decarbonizing in-basin

1 generation while maintaining reliability. Delays to
2 hydrogen technology and infrastructure development pose
3 risks and are outside of the utility's control. Glendale's
4 system is transmission constrained, relying on two
5 interties to bring in outside resources. This poses
6 challenges for new resource additions, but also for
7 maintaining reliability during contingency events should
8 something occur on one of those lines.

9 Glendale is pursuing high amounts of distributed
10 resources as part of the solution with a goal of having 10
11 percent of customers install rooftop solar PV plus storage
12 by 2028.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Pasadena Water and Power serves a combined 65,000
15 residential and commercial customers in the City of
16 Pasadena. Peak demand and net energy growth is expected to
17 increase by an annual average of 1 percent and 2.8 percent,
18 respectively.

19 Next slide, please.

20 Through its membership in SCPPA, Pasadena
21 receives power from the Magnolia gas-fired plant, Palo
22 Verde Nuclear Generating Station, and Hoover Dam. The
23 transition of IPP will remove coal from Pasadena's resource
24 portfolio before it ceases to take any power from the plant
25 at the contract's original end date in 2027. Pasadena also

1 receives power from its own natural gas-fired plant,
2 Glenarm, as well as from a variety of renewable resources.

3 In January 2023, Pasadena City Council passed a
4 resolution to set a policy goal of 100 percent of
5 Pasadena's electricity coming from carbon-free sources by
6 the end of 2030. To achieve this, Pasadena is planning to
7 procure large amounts of renewables, particularly solar and
8 geothermal, and hundreds of megawatts of energy storage,
9 mainly charged with solar power, to reduce dependable
10 capacity -- to reduce dependency on gas-fired generation.
11 Much of this power will be located outside Pasadena's
12 service territory, requiring upgrades to its transmission
13 system.

14 This plan requires significant investment and
15 revenue increases. While excess energy and capacity from
16 solar and storage will help raise revenue through sales,
17 rates will also increase. The IRP estimates that the
18 energy charge portion of the customer bill could increase
19 by approximately 85 percent by 2030, with a large degree of
20 uncertainty.

21 Pasadena is conducting a cost-of-service and rate
22 impacts study to evaluate necessary changes to the electric
23 rates as they transition to a zero-carbon system.

24 Pasadena's IRP is part of its waypoint strategy, where the
25 planning process to meet the 2030 goal will be revisited in

1 waypoint years 2026 and 2028.

2 Next slide, please.

3 Our last utility today, Silicon Valley Power, or
4 SVP, is part of the city administration of Santa Clara and
5 provides electricity to roughly 59,000 residential and
6 commercial customers, as well as 1,400 industrial
7 customers. SVP's location in Silicon Valley and relatively
8 lower rates makes it an attractive service provider for
9 companies setting up data centers. SVP forecasts
10 substantial low growth, primarily due to data centers, with
11 a 61 percent increase in peak demand and 62 percent
12 increase in energy consumption by 2030.

13 Next slide, please.

14 SVP's resource portfolio includes natural gas
15 power plants, large and small hydroelectric plants,
16 geothermal, wind, and solar power. Between 2024 and 2030,
17 SVP will decrease the amount of electricity from natural
18 gas while greatly increasing electricity from wind,
19 geothermal, and solar. SVP will also deploy battery
20 storage to help meet peak demand and reduce its need for
21 gas-fired generation. SVP's IRP includes having one of its
22 gas-fired power plants at the Lodi Energy Center,
23 converting to partly run on hydrogen starting in 2027.

24 Demand driven by new data centers is central to
25 SVP's IRP. SVP's service area does not have the land area

1 or abundant natural resources to generate large amounts of
2 renewable energy inside the service territory, so the
3 utility will need to procure renewable energy from
4 elsewhere. In addition, there is limited transmission
5 capacity into SVP's service territory, so new transmission
6 lines may need to be built. However, SVP is confident in
7 its ability to procure new resources, as the utility has a
8 good credit rating and favors itself in a competitive
9 bidding process.

10 Next slide, please.

11 I would like to take a moment to thank my fellow
12 staff who helped review these POU IRPs, Alan Lee, Alyssa
13 Tavares, Bryan McCollough, Cynthia Rogers, Angela
14 Tanghetti, Justin Szasz, Joseph Merrill, Ingrid Newman,
15 Bryan Samuelson, Usman Muhammad, Nicholas Janusch, Charles
16 Smith, and staff from the Fuels and Transportation
17 Division. I would also like to thank Mikayla Roberts for
18 her administrative assistance.

19 In conclusion, staff found that each of the four
20 POU IRP filings is consistent with the statutory
21 requirements of Public Utilities Code section 9621. Staff
22 recommends the Commission approve the orders adopting the
23 determinations.

24 A representative from SVP, Basil Wong, is in
25 person to make public comments. In addition to myself,

1 utility representatives are available to answer questions.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Bryan.

4 With that, let's turn to Commissioner -- oh,
5 we're actually going to public comment first, sorry, on
6 Item 5.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair.

8 The Commission welcomes public comment on Item 5
9 at this time. If you're in the room with us, we're asking
10 folks to use the QR code or visit the public advisors table
11 in the back of the room. And if you're on Zoom, you'll use
12 the raise-hand feature. It looks like an open palm or star
13 nine if joining by phone.

14 So first, we're going to check for folks in the
15 room. And we've got Basil Wong. If you want to approach
16 the podium? And just a reminder, we're asking for comments
17 to be two minutes or less. There will be a timer on the
18 screen. And it is helpful for a court reporter, if you
19 could please state and spell your name for the record as
20 well. It's optional.

21 MR. WONG: B-A-S-I-L. Last name is
22 W-O-N-G. Thank you, CEC Commissioner, staff, and the
23 public. I'm the Project Manager for SVP's 2023 Integrated
24 Resource Plan. I want to thank the CEC staff for reviewing
25 our IRP and collaborating with SCP.

1 Since the adoption of our IRP, our energy
2 procurement has evolved. Our load growth in the South Bay
3 driven by new data centers has required an upgrade to the
4 proposed HVDC lines.

5 On the resources side, in 2025, we brought online
6 485 megawatts of solar and storage capacity. By the end of
7 2026, we expect to bring another 385 megawatts of capacity
8 online. We are currently evaluating over one gigawatt of
9 storage and almost one gigawatt of energy resources,
10 including landfill gas, solar, and storage. However,
11 challenges remain, including offshore wind, geothermal, and
12 the loss of hydrogen.

13 I want to highlight the GHG accounting
14 methodology in the current IRP guidelines, which uses a
15 default emissions factor of 0.428 metric tons. It's based
16 on a pre-2010 WECC data. This is outdated. The ISO
17 provides hourly emissions factors. For example, last night
18 at 11:50 p.m., the grid emissions factor was 0.313 metric
19 tons per megawatt hour. Using the default factor
20 overstates emissions by 27 percent in this hour alone.
21 Through October 2025, the CalISO had over 1,766 hours where
22 clean energy exceeded demand, yet the LSEs would be charged
23 with the emissions for these hours.

24 Finally, the 2023 CARB 2030 planning targets are
25 based on the 2019 IEPR, which underestimated SVP's growth.

1 The 2019 forecast projected a 2025 peak of 657 megawatts,
2 but our actual peak this year was well over 700. Using the
3 2019 IEPR will result in a lower assigned target than
4 appropriate.

5 We urge the CEC to update both the GHG accounting
6 methodology and the IRP guidelines and the planning targets
7 so LSEs like SVP can plan effectively for California's
8 clean energy goals.

9 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

10 Next, we'll hear from Kelly Nguyen. Kelly, I'm
11 going to open your line. You'll unmute on your end. And
12 just a reminder, we're asking for comments to be two
13 minutes or less. And if you'd like your name to be part of
14 the record, it does help if you could state and spell your
15 name for our current reporter as well.

16 MS. NGUYEN: Hi, good morning. Can you hear me?

17 MS. BADIE: Yes.

18 MS. NGUYEN: Okay, wonderful. Good morning,
19 Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Kelly
20 Nguyen, K-E-L-L-Y, Nguyen, N-G-U-Y-E-N. I'm the Assistant
21 General Manager of Power Supply at Pasadena Water and
22 Power. I appreciate this opportunity to speak today. And
23 I would also like to thank the CEC leadership and staff for
24 the review and the recommendation to approve Pasadena's
25 IRP.

1 Our 2023 IRP is our roadmap to achieving the
2 city's Resolution 9977 goal of providing 100 percent
3 carbon-free electricity by the end of 2030. The IRP was a
4 year-long process that included extensive public outreach,
5 community meetings, regular updates to the Municipal
6 Services Committee and the Environmental Advisory
7 Commission, in collaboration with our Stakeholder Technical
8 Advisory Group representing residents, institutions, and
9 businesses.

10 Pasadena City Council adopted Resolution 9977
11 that declares that climate change is an emergency that
12 threatens the health and welfare of the city, region,
13 state, nation, and the environment. The resolution sets
14 forth a policy goal to source 100 percent of Pasadena's
15 electricity from carbon-free sources by the end of 2030.
16 It also directed us to plan multiple approaches to
17 transition to this policy goal and optimize for
18 affordability, rate equity, stability, and reliability of
19 electricity while achieving this goal.

20 So following that directive, we have been working
21 on an optimized strategic plan, which is an implementation
22 plan for reaching our 100 percent goal by 2030. The
23 resulting OSP is the culmination of that analytical work
24 and policy coordination, aligning technical modeling,
25 fiscal responsibility, and community input into a single

1 actionable framework. We have procured enough long-term
2 contract of carbon-free resources already to put Pasadena
3 on track to meet the state's 100 percent goal 15 years
4 ahead.

5 So I thank you for the opportunity here to speak
6 today, and thank you again.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

8 All right, that is the last raised hand, so back
9 to you, Chair.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, let's turn now to
11 Commissioner discussion on Item 5, starting with the Vice
12 Chair.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair.

14 Bryan, thank you so much for the presentation. I
15 want to also thank Basil and Kelly for your comments.

16 I, you know, just want to take this moment to
17 just thank SVP specifically for a couple of things over the
18 last five years. One, through the reliability events in
19 2020, '21, '22, we extensively relied on SVP's
20 collaboration on making sure we got through those heat
21 events. And second, I think I want to also thank SVP for,
22 you know, their expertise and information regarding to --
23 how best to bake in the data center growth into the
24 forecast had been extremely helpful along with the other
25 IOUs. So I just want to say, Basil, thank you so much for

1 your team's work.

2 And I want to note both the points that you made
3 on the GHG accounting methodologies, and I think it's a
4 really important point for us to think about how to
5 modernize that calculation, both the short-run and the
6 long-run GHG calculations. And on the forecast, you know,
7 Basil, if you're able to kind of comment on this, is the
8 delta between the forecasted load and the load that you're
9 seeing primarily coming from the data center growth or
10 other pieces? So I just wanted to check on that.

11 MR. WONG: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: It's all data centers. Great.
13 Thank you.

14 So, yeah, I wanted to note this, you know, for
15 the conversation today in public sphere that, you know, the
16 data center load growth projections has been a pretty
17 difficult thing to project. So the staff have continued to
18 make progress on developing new methodologies to bake that
19 in. So if we think about just the applications that all
20 the IOUs and the POUs receive, and if you bake that in,
21 that's almost 21 gigs of load that, you know, in terms of
22 just the applications. But not all of that, you know,
23 shows up.

24 So it's been a hard thing for staff to think
25 about how best to project that into the system forecast.

1 But want to recognize specifically how it impacts the POU's
2 or any other LSE is as you think about that system, why it
3 impacts as they translate to the LSE by LSE, especially a
4 mid or a small LSE, those, the inability to calculate or
5 capture the data center load could be significant. So
6 really recognize that and thank you for raising that.

7 Kelly, also thank you for framing the
8 conversation from Glendale's perspective. Looking forward
9 to continuing our conversations.

10 I also want to uplift all the staff, Elise,
11 Bryan, Justin, Alyssa, Alan, and Liz for all the work. I
12 think what the IRPs continue to show us is the opportunity
13 for statewide goals and how those goals actually are
14 implemented at a local, regional level within the state.
15 And it's a good barometer for us to think about the
16 constraints that we have to take into account as we think
17 about the goals at a state level, translating it to a local
18 level, whether it's transmission constraints, whether it's
19 a specific portfolio of resources.

20 You know, for example, some of the IRPs we have
21 seen from the POU's have a lot more, you know, carbon firm
22 and dispatchable power, whether it's geothermal or wind or
23 hydrogen, sorry, you know, which are really important for
24 them given the transmission limitations. So I think it's
25 important for us to think about how we are creating both

1 the flexibility and the ability for LSEs to recognize their
2 goals while supporting at a state level with the broader
3 trajectory.

4 So I look forward to further conversation, but
5 I'm here to support the IRP adoption.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So, Bryan, thanks for
8 the presentation, really appreciate it, and the briefing.
9 (Clears throat.) Excuse me.

10 I just kind of want to amplify and elevate
11 something that the Vice Chair just said. And I think just
12 these four, you know, I think demonstrate the diversity in
13 the POU realm. And, you know, I think staff has done a
14 great job of assessing and understanding each of them. And
15 the contexts are incredibly diverse, you know? And just
16 the role of the spot market, I think was really notable.
17 You know, some are increasing, some are decreasing sort of
18 the net spot procurement. That's really important, I
19 think, to continue to understand in terms of, you know, how
20 it plays into our carbon, you know, reaching our carbon
21 goals as a state.

22 The role of natural gas generation, you know, on
23 net going down, but, you know, it's a different path for
24 each POU. And I think that's something we need to learn
25 from and really encourage creative thinking on going

1 forward.

2 And then just the role of storage, obviously, you
3 know, some investments are massive, some not so much, but
4 the different paths the POU's are taking I think are all
5 really interesting and tailored to their own needs. And
6 then, you know, notable that hydrogen is starting to appear
7 in some of these and geothermal certainly, you know, great
8 resource for California to develop going forward.

9 So just thanks to the commenters and staff for
10 all the due diligence and looking forward to voting yes on
11 this.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I also want to thank
14 Bryan for the great work, briefing, and the presentation.

15 I do have a question. I think this is a simple
16 one. On the five-year cycle, have you noticed if we've had
17 any issues receiving the information on time?

18 MR. NEFF: No, all the utilities, all the POU's
19 have filed on time.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Got it. Okay.

21 And then I did have a question about the IID
22 portion. So I noticed on the slides that there was going
23 to be more investment in geothermal. I think that was one
24 of them. But then in the charts, it looked like it was
25 decreasing in 2030 compared to current levels. I was just

1 curious if you could talk a little bit more about that?

2 MR. NEFF: Sure. What is going on with
3 geothermal, they have two different contracts. So they're
4 increasing the amount of energy they're getting from
5 geothermal, but the dependable capacity to meet peak demand
6 is going to decrease under those contracts.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay. Thank you.

8 And I also wanted to acknowledge Basil and Kelly
9 for joining us and participating. Really appreciate
10 hearing from you directly.

11 All right. Thank you. Thank you, Bryan.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner.

13 Unless there's other comments or discussion, I'd
14 welcome motion on Item 5 from the Vice Chair.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, move Item 5.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from
17 Commissioner Gallardo?

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.

20 Vice Chair Gunda?

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well.
2 Commissioner Skinner had to step out to take a call.

3 We will turn next to Item 6, the Energy Code
4 Compliance Provider Applications, and welcome Armando
5 Ramirez to present.

6 MR. RAMIREZ: Hi. Good morning. Thanks for
7 waiting. Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair and
8 Commissioners. My name is Armando Ramirez. I'm a
9 Mechanical Engineer in the Standards Compliance Branch of
10 the CEC's Efficiency Division. I'm presenting a
11 recommendation to approve California Home Energy Efficiency
12 Rating Services, or CHEERS, 2025 Energy Code applications.
13 These are for approval as an Energy Code compliance program
14 provider and for approval of a residential data registry.

15 I would like to inform you of upcoming program
16 changes before discussing staff's requests today.

17 Next slide, please.

18 How would today's approval benefit Californians?
19 To answer this question, it would help to describe Energy
20 Code compliance.

21 Residential building projects such as new
22 construction and space conditioning change outs require not
23 only a building permit but also demonstration of compliance
24 with Energy Code. When the Energy Code requires code
25 verification and diagnostic testing, or FV&DT, the project

1 must be documented on a residential data registry.

2 FV&DT demonstrates the measure's compliance with
3 the code, which in turn ensures quality installation and
4 expected performance. This all leads to utility savings
5 and healthier homes. Compliant design, installation, and
6 FV&DT are reported on certificates of compliance,
7 installation, and verification. Those must be submitted to
8 local enforcement agency but also given to the homeowner or
9 else left for the home buyer. These activities effectively
10 protect consumers and support the state's energy
11 conservation and decarbonization goals.

12 Next slide, please.

13 Residential code compliance through FV&DT is
14 currently supported by the Home Energy Rating System, or
15 HERS program, but only until the end of this year. The
16 Energy Code compliance program, or ECC program, takes
17 effect with the 2025 Energy Code on January 1, 2026.
18 Similar to the HERS program, the ECC program defines
19 responsibilities for ECC providers including ECC Rater
20 training, certification, and discipline. The new program
21 introduces ECC Rater companies to the list of entities that
22 require a provider's certification and oversight.

23 Next slide.

24 So on its face, the new program is a rebranding
25 plus some needed improvement. For example, quality

1 assurance or QA covers Rater companies. ECC Program QA
2 also offers progressive discipline to catch and improve
3 performance issues. Additional information is presented on
4 the ECC Program web page that's on the CEC's website. This
5 includes a comprehensive question and answer section.
6 Staff invites homeowners, builders, contractors, and others
7 to subscribe for program notices using the subscribe form
8 on this web page.

9 Next slide.

10 Okay, the ECC Program must be administered by ECC
11 providers. ECC provider and data registry applications
12 require the CEC's approval. According to Energy Code
13 regulations, in May of this year, CHEERS applied for full
14 approval as an ECC provider. CHEERS also applied for
15 approval of a residential data registry. The scope of the
16 data registry includes production of 2025 Energy Code
17 compliance documents as well as a proprietary external
18 digital data source. or EDDS.

19 To determine that the provider would be capable
20 of meeting ECC Program requirements and provider
21 responsibilities, staff evaluated the application materials
22 against the regulations, met bi-weekly with CHEERS, visited
23 two training sites, tested the proposed registry, and
24 followed the regulated processes to both announce the
25 application to the public and offer a comment period, then

1 present an evaluation to the CEC's executive director.

2 Last month, the CEC's executive director
3 recommended approval to the Energy Commission. The
4 recommendation is available in the business meeting backup
5 materials.

6 Next slide.

7 Staff first request the Commission adopt staff's
8 conclusion that an approval of these applications is exempt
9 from CEQA. Staff respectfully request the Commission
10 approve the executive director's recommendation to, one,
11 approve CHEERS as an ECC provider for the 2025 Energy Code,
12 and two, approve the CHEERS 2025 Energy Code residential
13 data registry.

14 This concludes my presentation. Michael Merza
15 and I are available for questions. Thanks.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Armando.

17 Let's now turn to public comment on Item 6.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair.

19 The Commission welcomes public comment on Item 6.
20 If you're in the room with us, we're asking folks to use
21 the QR code or visit the public advisor table in the back
22 of the room. And if you're on Zoom online, you'll use the
23 raise-hand feature on your screen, or star 9 if joining by
24 phone. And we'll start with folks in the room.

25 We will hear from Jim Hodgson. Jim, if you'd

1 like to approach the podium. And just a reminder, we're
2 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. And if
3 you'd like your name to be part of the record, please do
4 state and spell your name for our co-reporter as well.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. HODGSON: Good morning. My name is Jim
7 Hodgson, H-O-D-G-S-O-N, and I'm the Chief Executive Officer
8 at CHEERS.

9 First off, Commissioners, thank you. This is a
10 big moment for California, the California residential
11 energy efficiency ecosystem. After two-plus years of
12 rewriting the HERS rules, we're on the eve of launching the
13 new Energy Code Compliance, or ECC Program. It's a major
14 milestone, and it will shape how homes are built, tested,
15 and verified well into the future.

16 In my opinion, this is the largest HERS update in
17 nearly two decades. Many parts of the compliance workflow
18 were redesigned with intent and purpose. Some of the key
19 improvements, Armando mentioned a few already, but I'll re-
20 highlight a couple of them. Consumer protections, greater
21 homeowner transparency and confidence, training. Raters
22 will be required to meet higher consistent statewide
23 standards. Accountability. There's new oversight that
24 extends to providers as well as rating companies now. And
25 then also data transparency. Compliance data more so

1 becomes insight that then can turn into action. These
2 improvements strengthen program integrity and support
3 California's goals toward efficiency, electrification, and
4 carbon reduction.

5 A deep thanks to CEC staff. This cycle, again,
6 in my opinion, demanded extraordinary collaboration, the
7 most so in my tenure with CHEERS, in over eight years.
8 Staff was incredibly busy reviewing training materials,
9 helping us refine homeowner disclosures. As Armando
10 mentioned, they recently visited our new Rater training
11 facilities that we will be making available soon to the
12 public. Their professionalism and partnership have been
13 outstanding throughout the entire process.

14 In closing, CHEERS is proud to support the state
15 goals or the state's goals at this milestone. We're ready
16 to help California lead the nation to the next chapter of
17 energy efficient, electrified home building. On behalf of
18 CHEERS, thank you for your consideration and the
19 opportunity to continue serving as a provider under the
20 2025 Energy Code.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

24 There are no other raised hands to comment on
25 this item, so back to you, Chair.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, we'll return to
2 commission discussion, starting with Commissioner
3 McAllister.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thanks
5 for the presentation. Really appreciate it. And this is a
6 big deal.

7 So, you know, Armando, we've been interacting
8 with staff all along since, you know, we started to
9 conceive of the reg update and moving all this over into
10 Title 24 and really being more specific about the elements
11 of the HERS now ECC ecosystem as part of our overall
12 compliance work; right? So it's really important, I think,
13 to put this in a long-term context where this is really, I
14 think, a key building block for improved compliance and
15 transparency across the building sector for code
16 compliance.

17 And so, you know, we have this kind of arm's-
18 length relationship with the HERS providers before that,
19 you know, over the last, I think, early on, you know, 13
20 years ago when I came to the Commission, we just, it became
21 clear how ponderous and how unworkable that was. And I
22 think we're now landing in a place that allows, I think, as
23 we've seen, and as Jim, thanks for being here, you
24 mentioned, allows much closer collaboration between staff
25 and providers. And I think that is only a good thing in

1 terms of just our ability to not get wrapped around the
2 axle and resolve things before they fester and just kind of
3 sort of really manage it actively so that it actually
4 works.

5 And so I think the clarity in the regs allows
6 that and, you know, really requires that, and the
7 progressive discipline and all the other elements really
8 make that possible.

9 So I think this first approval sort of feels to
10 me like a milestone that, you know, the rubber's hitting
11 the road. And it's not just sort of regs out there, it's
12 actually really, you know, Jim and, you know, CHEERS and
13 the team is really, the rubber's on the road, you're out
14 there doing it. And we're going to see the results for
15 that, from that. And navigate, you know, improvements.
16 We're going to, over time, we're going to see things that
17 we might have done differently, you know, based on
18 experience.

19 And so, just, you know, want to just put a pin in
20 all those things and figure out what improvements we can
21 make to the REGs around the limitations of AB 130. But
22 hopefully, we can make some progress and sort of really
23 fine tune this so that it, you know, works even more
24 seamlessly.

25 So it's a big deal. And just want to give kudos

1 to CHEERS for really being first in the hopper and first
2 through the gate here. And not only for this application
3 and all the back and forth and all the work to flesh it out
4 and make it real, but also a lot of the other things you're
5 doing in terms of data and understanding the marketplace,
6 really appreciate your innovation there. So look forward
7 to visiting at some point the facility again.

8 And, yeah, thanks to you, Armando, and the whole
9 team.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner.

11 Vice Chair Gunda.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Armando. I just
13 wanted to say thank you for the presentation and, you know,
14 just want to uplift Commissioner McAllister's efforts, you
15 know, in this area for a very, very long time in the
16 Efficiency Division's work. And as Commissioner McAllister
17 mentioned, this is kind of the first step in
18 operationalizing the Building Code and a very important
19 first step. So, congratulations to CHEERS. I look forward
20 to supporting the item. And as always, you know, it kind
21 of kickstarts the training of the Raters so we can start
22 that work. And looking forward to continuing to expand on
23 the data set that we collect through this process for all
24 other purposes.

25 So thank you. Looking forward to supporting the

1 item.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Other comments? Okay.

3 Well, thank you, Armando.

4 With that, I would welcome a motion on Item 6
5 from Commissioner McAllister.

6 MR. NAHMIAS: I move Item 6.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from the
8 Vice Chair?

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

10 THE COURT: All in favor say aye.

11 Commissioner McAllister?

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well.

18 Commissioner Skinner has stepped out. That item passes
19 four to zero.

20 We'll turn now to Item 7, Amendments to the
21 Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Disclosure Program
22 Regulations.

23 MR. ELLIS: Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair, and
24 Commissioners. I'm Jeremiah Ellis. I work in the Existing
25 Buildings Branch.

1 Next slide, please.

2 The purpose of this agenda item is to present
3 proposed amendments to the Benchmarking Program
4 Regulations. These amendments will address unforeseen
5 circumstances by allowing for exemptions and extended
6 reporting deadlines and detail how a request for an
7 exemption or extension can be submitted. We will review
8 the proposed amendments, and we are seeking approval for
9 these amendments.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The Benchmarking Program benefits Californians by
12 supporting energy efficiency in existing buildings and
13 serves as a foundation for energy performance monitoring,
14 and the changes introduce flexibility to deal with
15 circumstances such as the Southern California fires and the
16 emergency declaration that was issued earlier this year by
17 allowing the Executive Director to act quickly to impose
18 exemptions or extensions to a specific area.

19 Next slide, please.

20 First, it's important to have an understanding of
21 what benchmarking refers to. Today's context is building
22 energy benchmarking, which refers to measuring a building's
23 energy use and comparing it to the energy use of similar
24 buildings, its own historical energy use, or a reference
25 performance level.

1 The creation of the Benchmarking Program was
2 mandated with Assembly Bill 802 in 2015. This bill also
3 set requirements for the utility companies to save and
4 provide energy usage data for the previous 12 months at a
5 minimum, and it defined what buildings were to be covered
6 by the Benchmarking Program.

7 The benchmarking regulations were formally
8 adopted in March of 2018 with the requirement for
9 commercial reporting starting later the same year.

10 Multifamily reporting will become required later
11 in the reporting year of 2019.

12 Senate Bill 48 in 2023 was approved, which added
13 additional requirement for covered buildings to be larger
14 than 50,000 square feet.

15 Then in 2024, Assembly Bill 102 issued a
16 legislative directive to focus on outreach enforcement and
17 increasing compliance with the Benchmarking Program.

18 Next slide, please.

19 The proposed amendments include adding
20 definitions for substantial destruction or destroyed, which
21 is defined as damage to a building that is greater than 50
22 percent of the building's value. Additionally, we define
23 unforeseen circumstances as something that prevents the
24 building owner from complying with the program. This is
25 not limited to fires, flooding, earthquakes, or declared

1 emergencies. This open-ended definition gives flexibility
2 to allow for any one-off issues a building owner may have.

3 We also add options for exemptions and extensions
4 to the reporting deadline for buildings and or areas
5 affected by unforeseen circumstances. This language is
6 provided that allows the executive director to apply an
7 exemption or extension directly to a building or geographic
8 area. This is an example of how an emergency declaration
9 issued to a county or city may be addressed.

10 Without the executive director applying an
11 exemption or extension, the building owner is required to
12 submit an exemption request to the CEC. Additional
13 language is added to provide direction on how to submit a
14 building for an exemption or extension and what information
15 is needed for staff to approve the application.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Since June of this year, lots of action has been
18 taken to get us to this point. Regulatory language
19 development with CECO was completed in August. We held a
20 public workshop on October 13th and presented the proposed
21 amendments consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act
22 exemptions for the benchmarking regulations. Afterwards,
23 we opened a 10-day comment period that began on October
24 14th and ended on October 25th. This was all in an effort
25 to be on the agenda for today's business meeting.

1 Next slide, please.

2 Staff recommends adoption of the proposed
3 resolution amendments to the Building Energy Use
4 Benchmarking and Disclosure Program to address unforeseen
5 circumstances that may affect building owners' ability to
6 meet reporting requirements under the benchmarking program
7 and staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from
8 CEQA.

9 This concludes my presentation. Thank you.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

11 Let's go to public comment on item 7.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Chair.

13 The Commission welcomes public comment on Item 7
14 at this time. If you're in the room with us, we're asking
15 folks to use the QR code or visit the public advisors table
16 in the back of the room. And if you're on Zoom, you'll use
17 the raise-hand feature on your screen, or star 9 if joining
18 by phone.

19 Just giving that a moment. All right, Chair,
20 there are no raised hands to comment on this item. Back to
21 you.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. We'll turn now to
23 Commissioner discussion starting with Commissioner
24 McAllister.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Well, thanks, Jeremiah.

1 I really appreciate it. And obviously, I've been following
2 the benchmarking program since its inception, since
3 actually before its inception, and since its conception,
4 yes, exactly. And, you know, I think we're really at a
5 moment where we're firmly post-COVID. And I think, you
6 know, we're really reaching production mode and doing
7 everything we can to improve compliance and reporting, get
8 those percentages up for many, many reasons, including the
9 fact that we may have, you know, in some future, building
10 performance standards. Not a reality yet, but we're
11 working on a plan for that. And the legislature, the
12 governor's office will tell us whether that's going to
13 happen or not.

14 But I think regardless of whether that happens or
15 not, I think better information, better understanding of
16 our building stock, helping building owners figure out what
17 their decarbonization path is, the benchmarking is really
18 fundamental to all of that. And so these updates are just
19 common sense updates to help, I think, give flexibility by
20 passing some of the authority to the executive director and
21 also sort of firming up some other details.

22 So I really feel like this is, you know, kind of
23 a good government update to these regs. And I really
24 appreciate all the staff effort, really. I think it's a
25 foundational piece of, or programmatic element of our

1 decarbonization goals. And, you know, the building sector
2 is among, the existing building sector is, you know, among
3 the most difficult, if not the most difficult areas of our
4 economy to decarbonize. And this is a really fundamental
5 platform for that. So I really appreciate all the hard
6 work and keeping at it.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

8 Vice Chair?

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner.

10 I also want to just take this opportunity to say
11 thanks to Jeremiah and the team for all the work.

12 I just want to uplift a couple of points that
13 Commissioner McAllister mentioned. One, in terms of the
14 quick public process that you went through in making this
15 happen and how quickly it was done. And second, just on
16 recognizing the moment in the state. You know, we have our
17 decarbonization goals, which is our North Star. But, you
18 know, the regulatory framework should allow for timely
19 actions to be taken. And so this flexibility, especially,
20 you know, thinking about the devastating fires in Southern
21 California and how this kind of regulatory flexibility will
22 really help move things in a very quick fashion.

23 So, again, I think the amendments continue to
24 double down on the goals of the benchmarking program, but
25 allows for flexibility to get things faster, so thank you

1 so much.

2 MR. ELLIS: Yeah. Thank you.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Any other comments? Okay.

4 Well, thank you as well. Appreciate the good
5 work. And I'm delighted to support this.

6 I'd welcome a motion from Commissioner McAllister
7 on Item 7.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Move Item 7.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from the
10 Vice Chair?

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.
13 Commissioner McAllister?

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well.

20 Commissioner Skinner is absent.

21 As I mentioned, we're going to take up Items 8
22 and 9 at our November 17th special meeting, which will be
23 upstairs here in this building.

24 And so, with that, we'll turn next to Item 10,
25 EVgo Services LLC. And I welcome Jillian Romsdahl.

1 MS. ROMSDAHL: Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair,
2 and Commissioners. My name is Jillian Romsdahl, and I'm an
3 Energy Commission Specialist II in the Fuels and
4 Transportation Division. Today, I'm honored to present to
5 you the first proposed award under the Fast and Available
6 Charging for All Californians, or FAST 2.0, solicitation
7 for an EV charging infrastructure project to be implemented
8 by EVgo Services LLC.

9 Next slide, please.

10 The primary purpose of the FAST 2.0 solicitation
11 is to fund projects that will deploy fast electric vehicle
12 charging infrastructure to the public, making clean
13 transportation more accessible across California. To
14 qualify, projects must develop large DC fast charging
15 plazas with a minimum of 10 charging ports per site.

16 This solicitation prioritized disadvantaged and
17 low-income communities during application evaluation by
18 giving bonus points to projects that committed to
19 installing at least 50 percent of their charging ports in
20 disadvantaged areas.

21 All chargers funded under this solicitation must
22 be publicly accessible for at least 18 hours a day,
23 ensuring convenience and reliability for drivers.

24 In total, 22 projects are recommended for awards
25 under this solicitation's notice of proposed awards.

1 Together, this represents 546 new DC fast charging ports
2 and approximately \$35 million in funding.

3 Next slide, please.

4 As mentioned previously, EVgo Services LLC
5 project is the first proposed award under the FAST 2.0
6 solicitation. This project will install at least 42
7 publicly available DC fast charging ports across three
8 sites in Los Angeles County.

9 Two of the sites located in Los Angeles and
10 Bellflower are located in communities that are both
11 disadvantaged and low income. The third site in West
12 Hollywood is in a low-income community and sits directly
13 adjacent to a disadvantaged area. And notably, two out of
14 the three sites will each feature 16 charging ports, which
15 is well above the 10-port minimum requirement per site.
16 Lastly, all three sites are in dense urban areas with
17 numerous nearby amenities, including restaurants and
18 grocery stores.

19 The proposed award for this project is \$3.8
20 million with a 50 percent match share required by EVgo.

21 Next slide, please.

22 This project is expected to bring several
23 important benefits to Californians.

24 First, by prioritizing disadvantaged and low-
25 income communities, it will expand access to fast electric

1 vehicle charging in historically underserved areas.

2 Second, this project and the broader FAST 2.0
3 solicitation are helping to make DC fast charging more
4 ubiquitous across the state of California. This means less
5 range anxiety for drivers and more people choosing electric
6 vehicles.

7 And finally, increasing EV adoption will help
8 reduce pollution in local communities. By focusing on
9 areas that are disproportionately exposed to higher
10 pollution levels, we're taking meaningful steps towards
11 cleaner air and healthier neighborhoods in the communities
12 that need it the most.

13 Next slide, please.

14 CEC staff recommends the approval of a single
15 grant totaling approximately \$3.8 million for EVgo Services
16 LLC, along with the adoption of the staff determination
17 that this project qualifies for exemption under CEQA.

18 Thank you, Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioners
19 for your time. And both I and FTD staff are available to
20 answer any questions.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Jillian.

22 We'll turn now to public comment on Item 10.

23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair. This is Ryan
24 Young, Deputy Public Advisor.

25 The Commission now welcomes public comment on

1 Item 10. If you are in the room, please use the QR code
2 posted in the back or visit the public advisor table in the
3 back of the room. If you're on Zoom, please click the
4 raise-hand feature on your screen. And if you're joining
5 by phone, please press star 9 to raise your hand.

6 Not seeing any members of the public that wish to
7 make a comment, back to you, Chair.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you.

9 I have a few questions. So just doing the math
10 here, it looks like it's about \$89,500 per fast charger,
11 which is about what I've heard for the Level 3s going in
12 now. And I wanted to know, just in terms of permitting
13 these things, are we seeing much improvement? And have you
14 heard from EVgo just around the permitting fast charging
15 infrastructure and the time delays associated with that?

16 MS. ROMSDAHL: Yeah. So in scoring the
17 application, we looked for applications that were farther
18 ahead in the permitting process. For example, this
19 project, all the site, the land has been secured for all
20 the projects, they're pretty advanced in the permitting
21 process, so we don't anticipate any delays. We're looking
22 at, I think, late 2027 for energy and commissioning to be
23 complete.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Right. Okay.

25 MS. ROMSDAHL: And then, yeah, just on the math,

1 there was a cost cap of \$100,000 per port for the
2 solicitation. So this is, yeah, if you did the math
3 correctly, it's about \$90,000 per port.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. And then just out of
5 curiosity, what fraction, this may not be something you
6 know, but just what fraction of the users, you know, in
7 these sites do you think will be like from ride hailing
8 companies? Is there any way to assess that?

9 MS. ROMSDAHL: I'm not --

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

11 MS. ROMSDAHL: Maybe someone from FTD might be on
12 the call who knows a little bit more about that than I do.
13 Is anyone? Bridey, is my supervisor raising her hand.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is that the hand that's
15 raised?

16 MS. ROMSDAHL: Yeah. Thanks.

17 MS. SCULLY: Hi, everyone. Hi, Commissioners.
18 Thank you for the question.

19 We are happy to go back to the proposal details
20 and see if this specific proposal mentioned anything about
21 rideshare usage or usage of rideshare drivers. However, we
22 definitely are able to look at the data more closely. And
23 once these chargers submit the required data based on the
24 solicitation requirements, we can, you know, look and see
25 if we can get some more insights from that data and

1 understand more clearly the usage and the folks that are
2 using these chargers.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Well, great. Just for
4 what it's worth, I did -- I had to go to L.A. for some
5 meetings a few weeks ago. I went down in my EV and I
6 tried -- I went down the 101, came back up to 5. I tried
7 every different type of charger I could find, EVgo,
8 Electrify America, Tesla, ChargePoint, everything else.
9 Everything worked. So it was a great charging experience.
10 So hopefully we can build on that.

11 I know Commissioner Skinner is out. But yeah,
12 Vice Chair, please.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah. Thanks, Chair.

14 Jillian, thank you for the presentation. I just
15 wanted to always take this moment to just say thanks to the
16 staff for all the great work that's happening.

17 I recognize that this is the first of many grants
18 to come. And could you just comment, it's almost 500-plus
19 potential charging ports that we would get through this
20 program or the series of grants?

21 MS. ROMSDAHL: The Notice of Proposed Awards
22 recommended 22 projects, and so that's 546 ports in total.
23 You always lose a few projects during agreement
24 development. So it will be a little lower than that. But
25 yeah, it's a lot of ports to this. And this is, yeah, the

1 first award going through. I think several are accepted in
2 the December business meeting.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: That's excellent.

4 I also want to just say thanks to SCE and LADWP,
5 you know, the kind of making sure that they're helping us
6 and supporting the vendors.

7 Also want to make sure, I think this is going to
8 show up on the EV Dashboard soon, these projects, and, you
9 know, looking forward to the success story, sharing that
10 for our L.A. neighborhoods.

11 I want to just make sure I comment on the Chair's
12 question. I think, you know, as we move forward, making
13 sure the permitting happens quickly, both from the
14 perspective of, you know, any upgrades required for the
15 grid and the energization infrastructure. So I would love
16 to kind of continue the conversation on how to reduce the
17 timelines on this. There's a direct connection to these
18 projects that we do and the demand forecast and then the
19 planning on the supply side. So it all kind of goes
20 together. So would love to engage with staff on continuing
21 to understand how to, in a timely fashion, move these
22 projects, but also make sure we are baking them into our
23 broader planning strategies.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Unless there -- yes,

1 Commissioner Gallardo, please.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Jillian, for
3 the wonderful briefing and presentation. I'm also very
4 excited about this progress and just want to highlight the
5 focus on the low-income communities and disadvantaged
6 communities.

7 I do have family in Bellflower, so I'm going to
8 make sure I tell them that these are available. And that
9 has been some of the frustration of folks I know is that
10 there aren't enough chargers. And so I have a cousin who
11 ended up turning his EV back in, even though he really
12 enjoyed it, because he couldn't find a place to charge. He
13 couldn't do it at home.

14 So again, this is why I'm excited about these on
15 a personal level. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

16 MS. ROMSDAHL: Yeah, and I'll just add that, you
17 know, by kind of prioritizing disadvantaged and low-income
18 communities through awarding bonus points through
19 application scoring, almost -- there's just a couple of the
20 sites, the proposed awards that don't -- that aren't in
21 disadvantaged communities. The vast majority of them are.
22 So it was very effective.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah. I mean, all together,
24 the portfolio we funded, it's what, 50 or 60 percent in
25 low-income and disadvantaged; correct?

1 MS. ROMSDAHL: That is my understanding. Bridey
2 might be a little bit more well-versed on the numbers.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

4 MS. ROMSDAHL: Do you want to --

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Sorry, let's just let Bridey
6 respond.

7 Bridey, did you want to respond to that?

8 MS. SCULLY: Sure. Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

9 Yeah, I don't have a figure off the top of my
10 head, but we are happy to kind of crunch the numbers and
11 get back to you. But, yeah, our Clean Transportation
12 Program funding, which I believe is a funding source for
13 this solicitation, does require at least 50 percent of our
14 funds to be--

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

16 MS. SCULLY: -- spent in DAC and low-income
17 communities. So, yeah, at least 50 percent. But typically
18 we average quite a bit higher than that as well.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah. Great. Thank you.

20 Commissioner McAllister?

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah. Fabulous.
22 Really appreciate the back and forth here. And thanks for
23 the presentation. Really exciting. I'm, you know, happy
24 to support this.

25 I guess, you know, given network effects, you

1 know, we need chargers so that people can come and
2 everything. Do we have good data about, like from the DMV
3 or, you know, as part of the forecasting about sort of what
4 the penetration of zero-emission vehicles, EVs, light-duty
5 EVs in disadvantaged communities across the state? I mean,
6 I think we've got -- the dashboard has a lot of information
7 in it, but I'm wondering sort of what's the expected sort
8 of utilization rate of these fast chargers relative to sort
9 of statewide averages?

10 MS. ROMSDAHL: Bridey might want to speak to that
11 one.

12 MS. SCULLY: Yeah. Again, this is another one
13 we're happy to follow up with more information.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great.

15 MS. SCULLY: I know, you know, other groups in
16 our division work specifically on this, the data modeling
17 units. And so I believe that they do have more information
18 from DMV data and other sources around utilization. And,
19 you know, in FTD in general, there has been a large effort
20 from a lot of different groups to --

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, exactly.

22 MS. SCULLY: -- make the data more robust. And
23 so that is really an integral part of these newer
24 solicitations coming out, you know, really, really robust
25 data requirements for these folks to provide back to CEC.

1 And I know a lot of different units are working very hard
2 on understanding how the CEC can best use that data and
3 kind of where we can, you know, firm up the requirements
4 and move forward so that we can really understand where our
5 investments are going and kind of how to move forward with
6 that.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Really, really
8 appreciate that. And it seems like, you know, based on
9 sort of anecdotal and my own personal experience, there is
10 an increasingly robust secondary market, you know, for used
11 EVs and just really a lot of different agencies, as you
12 said, working on this issue. But boy, it really would be
13 nice if we could figure out a way to facilitate, you know,
14 EVs so that people have a positive experience, you know,
15 versus a mission to get rid of this cousin, that this
16 really -- I mean, this has to be the future; right? So
17 we've got to really make it work. And these charges are a
18 key part of that, so thanks.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And just a reminder to
20 everybody, we had our highest ever quarter in the history
21 of the state for EV sales. And in Q3, we had 29.1 percent
22 vehicle sales.

23 Well, thank you for all the good work.

24 With that, I would welcome a motion from
25 Commissioner McAllister on Item 10.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Move Item 10.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from the
3 Vice Chair?

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.
6 Commissioner McAllister?

7 MR. NAHMIAS: Aye.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
13 10 passes four to zero.

14 We'll turn now to Item 11, Advancing Designs and
15 Analysis of High-Voltage Direct Current Substations and
16 Environmental Monitoring for Floating Offshore Wind.

17 MR. LUBEGA: Well, good morning, Chair, Vice
18 Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Nathan Lubega. I'm a
19 Renewable Generation Specialist with the Energy Research
20 and Development Division. Today, I'm presenting three
21 awards that resulted from our EPIC solicitation, Grant
22 Funding Opportunity 24-307, to Advance Designs and Analysis
23 of High-Voltage Direct Current, or HVDC, Substations and
24 Environmental Monitoring for Floating Offshore Wind.

25 Next slide, please.

1 This EPIC solicitation supports development of
2 offshore wind energy generation, which plays an important
3 role in diversifying the state's portfolio of resources, as
4 it complements the generation attributes of other clean
5 energy resources. Offshore wind can support grid
6 reliability and help California achieve its 100 percent
7 renewable and zero-carbon energy goals. The proposed
8 awards under the solicitation improve the feasibility and
9 sustainability of floating offshore wind in California by
10 reducing the risk of entanglement to marine life,
11 increasing safety for personnel in the wind energy areas,
12 lowering costs associated with permitting, monitoring, and
13 transmission, and improving system and grid reliability.

14 Next slide.

15 The objectives of this solicitation are to
16 advance development of floating offshore wind energy
17 technologies, such as offshore high-voltage direct current
18 substations, to transmit offshore wind generation to shore
19 and inform standardized approaches for offshore electrical
20 infrastructure.

21 Additionally, this solicitation aims to develop
22 environmental monitoring solutions to minimize impacts to
23 marine life and habitats from offshore wind infrastructure.

24 These objectives are consistent with
25 recommendations outlined in the Assembly Bill 525 Offshore

1 Wind Strategic Plan to explore the technologies and
2 configurations for interconnecting offshore wind projects
3 to achieve efficiencies and identify strategies to minimize
4 and offset impacts to marine life and habitats from
5 offshore wind development.

6 Next slide.

7 Today, I'm seeking approval for three proposed
8 awards listed here. The total amount is about \$9.2 million
9 of EPIC funding, with a match of \$3.7 million across three
10 agreements. There's an additional proposed award under the
11 solicitation plan for a future business meeting.

12 Next slide, please.

13 The first proposed award is with the Alliance for
14 Sustainable Energy, LLC, who is the manager and operator of
15 the National Renewable Energy Lab. This project aims to
16 develop a approach for offshore wind transmission via an
17 open-source floating high-voltage direct current substation
18 concept design. I really want to emphasize there's no in-
19 water testing scoped under this, as this is just a paper
20 study.

21 The benefits of this project are to minimize
22 environmental impacts, lower ratepayer costs, and increase
23 grid reliability by incorporating California-specific needs
24 into a standard open-source design. This aligns with a
25 Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California

1 and the government of Norway and brings offshore wind
2 expertise to California. All funds will be spent within
3 the United States.

4 The total amount is about \$3.25 million.

5 Next slide.

6 The second proposed award is with Integral
7 Consulting. This project aims to detect and mitigate
8 marine entanglements and perform environmental and
9 structural health monitoring of offshore wind via an
10 integrated system of uncrewed surface vehicles, or USVs,
11 and underwater vehicles, or UUVs.

12 The benefits of this project are to minimize
13 entanglement risks to marine life through active
14 monitoring, to lower costs, and promote a faster timeline
15 for clean generation by informing permitting processes.

16 The total amount is \$3 million.

17 Next slide.

18 The third proposed award is with Sofar Ocean
19 Technologies. This project aims to detect marine
20 entanglement and perform structural health monitoring of
21 floating offshore wind infrastructure using a novel buoy
22 system with integrated sensors, artificial intelligence,
23 and digital twin models.

24 The benefits of this project minimize
25 entanglement risks to marine life through a passive

1 monitoring system, lowering costs, and increasing safety
2 and reliability.

3 The total amount is just under \$3 million.

4 Next slide.

5 Staff recommends that the Commission adopt staff
6 determination that these projects are exempt from CEQA and
7 approve the proposed grant agreements for a total of \$9.2
8 million.

9 That concludes my presentation. I'll be happy to
10 answer any questions that you have.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Thank you so much,
12 Nathan.

13 We'll turn now to public comment on Item 11.

14 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair.

15 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
16 Item 11. If you wish to make a comment and are in the
17 room, please use the QR code posted in the back or visit
18 the public advisor table. If you are on Zoom, please click
19 the raised-hand feature on your screen. And if you're
20 joining by phone, please press star 9 to raise your hand.

21 Seeing no people in the room, we're going to
22 transition to Zoom.

23 Adam Stern, I'm opening your line. Please unmute
24 on your end, spell your name for the record, state any
25 affiliation, and we welcome your public comment.

1 MR. STERN: Thank you, and thank you,
2 Commissioners. I'm Adam Stern, Executive Director of
3 Offshore Wind California. It's A-D-A-M S-T-E-R-N.

4 Commissioners, I want to recommend your approval
5 of these EPIC investments to advance designs and analysis
6 of high voltage direct current substations as well as
7 environmental monitoring for California floating offshore
8 wind projects. This is more good news for Golden State
9 residents and workers who will benefit from gigawatts of
10 reliable, clean offshore wind power.

11 These awards, funded by the state's utility
12 customers under the auspices of the CPUC, are another
13 signal of the state's determination to deploy floating
14 offshore wind turbines 20 to 30 miles off the California
15 coast. And in this moment, when we're experiencing federal
16 headwinds, it's really important for California to
17 demonstrate its commitment to be a clean energy leader.

18 Today's action is another indication of
19 California's progress and dedication to advance offshore
20 wind, to strengthen the state's energy security and
21 independence, spur a hub for floating technology and jobs,
22 and help secure the state's path to achieving 100 percent
23 clean electricity by 2045.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 We'll next hear from Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez.
2 Nancy, I'm opening your line. Please unmute on your end,
3 spell your name, state any affiliation, and then we welcome
4 your public comment.

5 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Can you hear
6 me?

7 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

8 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Nancy Kirshner-
9 Rodriguez, N-A-N-C-Y K-I-R-S-H-N-E-R hyphen Rodriguez,
10 R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z, Oceantic Network, O-C-E-A-N-T-I-C, and
11 then Network.

12 I'm glad to be here today just to also voice
13 support for the ongoing work that the team through EPIC has
14 been performing and the partnerships they've developed and
15 the funding, and to urge all of you to continue to support
16 these new projects, which will absolutely move California
17 forward as we continue to look at the complex but very
18 important future that we are building for offshore wind,
19 floating offshore wind, and the leadership that California
20 can provide both in the state and for the nation long term.
21 And we thank you. Our supplier council knows how important
22 these types of research projects are as we look forward and
23 we urge you to support this funding.

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

25 We'll next hear from E. Lozon. E. Lozon, I'm

1 opening your line. Please unmute on your end. Spell your
2 name, state of the affiliation, and we welcome your public
3 comment.

4 MS. LOZON: Hi. My name is Ericka Lozon,
5 E-R-I-C-K-A L-O-Z-O-N. I am a research engineer at the
6 National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

7 I want to thank the California Energy Commission
8 for considering our proposed project, a reference floating
9 HVDC substation design for California. This project will
10 enable the HVDC benefits of lowering transmission costs,
11 improving electrical efficiency, and supporting grid
12 stability by developing a reference floating HVDC
13 substation for California's floating offshore wind farms.

14 So California's offshore wind farms are
15 challenged by the deep water depths and the extreme wind,
16 wave, and current loading that the floating HVDC substation
17 must be able to withstand. In this project, our design
18 process will consider the complex offshore environment and
19 balance competing considerations in electrical equipment
20 robustness, floating platform stability, mooring system
21 stiffness, and dynamic cable motions.

22 Through an open source design process, we will
23 broadly explore different options for the substation before
24 identifying an optimal design tailored to California
25 conditions. Throughout the project, we will also consider

1 supply chain and logistics, environmental impacts, and
2 stakeholder feedback in order to develop a holistic and
3 low-cost design suited to California's infrastructure. By
4 developing this reference design and sharing learnings
5 throughout the project, this research will encourage
6 developers and industry towards standardized approaches
7 that lower costs, reduce environmental impact, and maximize
8 benefits to stakeholders.

9 We're bringing a really strong team to this
10 project. Led by NREL, we are experts in offshore wind and
11 floating system design. We have project partner DNV, who
12 brings experience in floating HVDC substations from their
13 joint industry project. Cal Poly, Humboldt brings in
14 California stakeholder feedback and considerations. And
15 then Hitachi and Aibel are our critical industry partners
16 on HVDC equipment and platform design.

17 On behalf of the project team, we are grateful
18 that the California Energy Commission is considering this
19 important research.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much.

22 Chair, that concludes public comment on this
23 item. Back to you.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right. Thanks, Ryan.

25 Well, great presentation, Nathan. And just want

1 to say, this really lines up very well from my perspective
2 in terms of what I think some of the key R&D needs are.

3 And I just want to highlight, you know, today the
4 dominant generation source being deployed in California and
5 across the country is ground-mounted, you know, solar on
6 horizontal single-axis trackers. And, you know, a decade
7 or two ago, all of this R&D investment was made that really
8 made that possible and really helped drive the cost down.

9 So with where we are right now, you know, at the Energy
10 Commission on this issue, I think ports investment and R&D
11 are, you know, top of mind in terms of the investments we
12 can be making and we are making. So I feel really good
13 about it. I want to thank you and the team for the work.

14 And just open it up if there's any other
15 comments. Yeah, starting with the Vice Chair, and then to
16 Commissioner McAllister.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Chair, thank you.

18 I just wanted to say thanks, Nathan, to you and
19 the entire team.

20 Again, to Chair's point, I think these are
21 important projects for us to continue our work towards
22 offshore wind. We've spoken this many times at the
23 Commission. Offshore wind's characteristics as a generator
24 has significant attributes that can help us with
25 accelerating our system towards the zero-carbon system that

1 we would like to. But I think it's more importantly the
2 offshore wind also plays into the industrial and economic
3 transition of the state as a whole. So looking forward to
4 continuing to support these projects.

5 With that, I'll pass it to Commissioner
6 McAllister.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you.

8 Thanks, Nathan, for the great presentation, the
9 briefing, really appreciate it. And both today and in the
10 briefing, I think the team's expertise really came across.
11 So lots of confidence in your vetting these projects and
12 you're happy to support this item.

13 I did actually have a question for Ms. Lozon, if
14 she's still on. And the question has to -- it kind of
15 comes out of my own personal experience back in the day
16 doing wind energy in marine environments, actually, in
17 partnership with NREL, back in the village power days,
18 actually.

19 So, you know, down in southern Chile, actually,
20 the offshore resources has a lot in common with California
21 and north of California. And just the harshness of the
22 marine environment, you know, you talked about currents and
23 wind and loading and all that, but just the saline air just
24 is so corrosive to equipment. And, you know, a floating
25 substation with a lot of, you know, power electronics and,

1 you know, equipment in there.

2 I guess maybe, I think, Ericka, was it?

3 MR. LUBEGA: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yes. Could you maybe
5 just riff on that a little bit, and not extensively today,
6 but I'd love to have a conversation just about sort of
7 equipment longevity and sort of how you prepare, how you
8 harden equipment in that environment so that it has the
9 longevity and, therefore, kind of the economic performance
10 that we need to make it cost effective and robust.

11 MS. LOZON: Yeah. Thank you for the question,
12 Commissioner. Yeah, definitely agree with all your
13 concerns. The offshore environment is very challenging. I
14 would say on the wind wave and current loading side, we are
15 really well positioned to dig into that in this project.
16 At NREL, we have a lot of experience in designing floating
17 offshore wind turbines for, you know, the harsh offshore
18 environment. And so we can really naturally translate our
19 experience in designing platforms, designing mooring
20 systems to the floating HVDC substation.

21 And then, on your comment on the saline air,
22 that's interesting. Yeah, definitely something I'm less
23 experienced in personally, but we have our partners,
24 Hitachi and Aibel, who have installed fixed-bottom HVDC
25 substations in the Dogger Bank wind farms. So I think that

1 they will have a lot of ideas in that area and can, you
2 know, provide their experience in how they've made their
3 equipment resilient to those conditions.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Yeah. I'd love
5 to follow up on that and just to kind of understand what
6 the latest and greatest technology for that kind of
7 resilience is. So I appreciate your being here and your
8 comments.

9 MS. LOZON: Sure. Yeah, I'd be happy to follow
10 up. Thank you.

11 MR. LUBEGA: If I could add to Erika's comments?
12 A big part of this project, the project partner is DNV, who
13 has a lot of expertise with European offshore wind floating
14 structures and fixed-bottom structures and develops a lot
15 of European design standards. And we're hoping to bring a
16 lot of that expertise here to California.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks a lot.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Gallardo?

20
21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Nathan, thank you so much
22 for the great briefing, also the great presentation. I
23 also want to thank Ms. Gonzalez [sic], Adam, and Ericka for
24 joining us to contribute to the conversation here.

25 A question I was thinking about as you're

1 presenting is, I know that these efforts are meant for
2 floating offshore wind. I was just curious, for example,
3 with the two that will have monitoring systems or
4 technologies, if those would be able to be used for other
5 purposes as well, or is this solely for floating offshore
6 wind?

7 MR. LUBEGA: Yeah, that's a great question. So
8 primarily, these projects are looking at offshore wind
9 infrastructure. However, both the Integral Consulting
10 Project and the Sofar project have both active and passive
11 systems that are constantly collecting a bunch of data.
12 They have acoustic sensors, sonar buoys, et cetera, that
13 are able to get data both on marine mammal movements, on
14 wind conditions and weather conditions. And I believe this
15 data would probably be useful in some other use cases.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Excellent. So more bang
17 for the buck; right? All right. Thank you so much.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right. Well, with that, I
19 would -- oh, yeah, please, Commissioner Skinner.

20 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Given that the data, I
21 appreciate the question, Commissioner Gallardo, and also
22 you -- sorry, appreciate the question and your explanation.
23 But given that the data could be useful for other type of
24 research purposes, is it -- I mean, oftentimes what this
25 type of data might be kept proprietary and not be shared?

1 Do we have provisions that it would be shared?

2 MR. LUBEGA: Yeah, that's a great question. So
3 I'll start with the HVDC design side of things. That
4 design is an open source design, and part of the project is
5 we're trying to enable NREL and all the various parties to
6 collaborate with the offshore wind developers and have this
7 publicly available and publicly accessible because we want
8 this design to be adopted for future offshore wind
9 development.

10 On the environmental monitoring side, part of our
11 agreement development was ensuring that the various
12 entities involved so far in integral are making this data
13 publicly accessible, so it can be used for other use cases.
14 So, yes, there are some provisions for that.

15 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Great. Thank you.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. With that, I would
17 welcome a motion from the Vice Chair on Item 11.

18 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Move Item 11.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from
20 Commissioner Skinner?

21 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Second.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.

23 Vice Chair Gunda?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

1 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That
7 item passes unanimously.

8 Thank you, Nathan. Great job.

9 MR. LUBEGA: Thank you, Commissioners.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: With that, we will turn next
11 to Item 12, Lead Commissioner and Presiding Member Reports,
12 starting with Commissioner McAllister.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, yeah,
14 just briefly. Boy, it feels like a long time since we were
15 all together, maybe. I've been traveling a lot, both for
16 personal and for work reasons.

17 So I did want to just point out the Load
18 Modification Forecast Workshop tomorrow. So those of you
19 who are works on the demand forecast and demand side or,
20 you know, load modifiers, that's always a really robust
21 discussion. So I hope you can join us.

22 Let's see, I guess the main thing I did since
23 last business meeting was go to the NASEO annual meeting in
24 Nashville, Tennessee. I actually spent two weeks there
25 because it's my hometown where I grew up and my parents are

1 there. And so aging parents, I think I wanted to just give
2 a shout out for those of us who have aging parents and who
3 are trying to make them -- allow them to have their best
4 life as long as possible. So both, you know, both of mine
5 are around, well, my dad's about to be 91 and my mom's 88
6 and they're still kicking. So it was great to spend some
7 time with my dad, in particular when my mom was off in
8 Morocco at 88, okay? So it is possible. But just, yeah,
9 just spending some quality time, a week or so, with my dad
10 was just a treasure. So really appreciated that.

11 And the NASEO conference was, again, I really
12 think a knock-it-out-of-the-park positive experience for
13 all the states. There was no DOE presence this year. And
14 so it really was a very honest, and I think a little bit
15 raw, but very righteous conversation amongst the states
16 about how we can move forward.

17 I just appreciate Commissioner Gallardo for
18 coming and tuning in and really being a part of the new
19 geothermal effort that NASEO has been convening. I think
20 that'll potentially be a really good base to share lessons
21 and really move that forward. And I think a lot of people
22 are looking to California in our leadership. So I really
23 appreciate your engagement on that.

24 And let's see, I guess last week, well, before
25 Nashville, there were a couple of interesting meetings.

1 One was the Heat Pump Partnership meeting down in L.A. And
2 I just want to appreciate the staff who's organizing that,
3 Scott Blunk and his team, together with the Building Decarb
4 Coalition and all the members and all the OEMs and all the
5 heat pump manufacturers and distributors and allies that
6 are really making an effort to grow the heat pump market
7 for HVAC and water heating in California. So it's slow and
8 steady wins the race; right? So I think we're making
9 progress there. I appreciate the Chair's leadership.

10 And then I attended a hydrogen convening. I want
11 to thank my advisor, Hughson Garnier, for helping me engage
12 with that, actually, both my advisors in different ways.
13 Both Maggie and Houston are both here with us today, so
14 thank you to you both.

15 And it was a convening sort of Canadian and at
16 the Canadian Consul's house, you know, which is lovely,
17 lovely property there. And just lots of industry and
18 government folks from both sides, including our, you know,
19 our agencies. Angelina was there, and Tyson Eckerle was
20 there. And a lot of productive conversation about, you
21 know, potential collaborations around hydrogen. And, you
22 know, Canada has been a leader in that and I think it's
23 interesting to keep that conversation going.

24 Also, happened to be during the tail end of the
25 ALCS in the lead up to the World Series. So a lot of

1 nationalism there, but all in good fun. So, you know, I
2 want to just give a shout out to the Blue Jays for an
3 amazing, amazing World Series. And to our Canadian friends
4 who I know we're rooting for them. And anyway, could have
5 gone either way. So that's what sport's all about.

6 And so then let's see, and then the last thing I
7 want to talk about is just a little bit of the Greenbuild.
8 It happened in L.A. last week. And I went to a two-day
9 sustainable finance forum. And just really wanted to call
10 out the commercial sector and some of the partners that
11 helped organize that, and also plugging into a global UN
12 process to really try to move the needle hemispherically.
13 So at this sustainable finance meeting, there was a lot of
14 representation across the hemisphere from Argentina and
15 Brazil and Uruguay and Mexico, other countries. So there's
16 just a lot of engagement across the large commercial sector
17 to try to establish tools, access capital, really improve
18 our building stock across the hemisphere. And again,
19 people look to California for leadership there.

20 Last thing I would wrap up is, you know, I talked
21 about aging parents. And the other day, I was watching PBS
22 and Arlie Hochschild came up and was in an actual like
23 being interviewed for her work to try to facilitate, not
24 try, to actually facilitate, bipartisan doesn't quite do it
25 justice but just an integrative cross-society conversations

1 in place in the South and the Southern U.S. where, you
2 know, they are deep-deep red states at this point, but
3 trying to sort of transcend politics and getting a
4 conversation going. And oh, my God, kudos to her for just
5 being in the fight and doing it in such a kind and loving
6 and skillful way.

7 And so, you know, it's clear like where all of
8 your abilities in that regard kind of come from. You come
9 back very honestly, I'll say. So just really wanted to
10 call out what a rich life to be doing that at that age and
11 wanted to just manifest appreciation and gratitude.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh, that's very sweet of you
13 to recognize my mother. She's hitting her peak at age 85.
14 I would say she's doing great. She's been going to coal
15 country in Kentucky and doing roundtables, you know, with
16 people there and just wrote a book about that. So thank
17 you.

18 Yeah, Vice Chair?

19 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thanks, Chair. The only thing
20 that's moving a little slower than my brain today is this
21 button here. It's very sticky today. But I wanted to, you
22 know, provide a few quick updates.

23 So I think just a few buckets of issues on the
24 resource planning and reliability. You know, the summer is
25 an important time for us to track the electric reliability.

1 Again, we are three years in a row now. We haven't had a
2 Flex Alert, I think, thanks to the incredible work of
3 CAISO, PUC, CEC staff all working together on ensuring the
4 planning is adequate so we understand our worst case
5 scenarios on the grid and having contingency plans to get
6 through that, along with the incredible procurement and the
7 resource build out we have seen the last few years.

8 So I think we are on a good path under liability.
9 We have to continue to keep a pace at building the grid.
10 And we're over 100 gigs now in California installed
11 capacity. And, you know, for the first time our, you know,
12 capacity in terms of gas is lower than our clean energy,
13 you know, resources. It's just an incredible story of
14 transition on the grid side.

15 A few planning reports that we do with other
16 agencies, including SB 100, you know, that's due earlier
17 this year, but we're continuing to make progress on the SB
18 100 Report. We expect sometime around the next first
19 quarter of 2026 to put the draft out and push it to
20 completion. And along with that in the first quarter,
21 we'll also have our first quarterly report for the year on
22 the electric grid reliability, which is the staff's biggest
23 effort on looking backwards and forwards together. And
24 finally, the staff are going to complete their California
25 energy reliability outlook about April timeframe, which

1 includes petroleum, natural gas and electricity. So a lot
2 of planning work being done by staff.

3 There has been some interest from DOE,
4 specifically on a couple of issues more recently. Some of
5 you might be tracking that the DOE has sent a letter for
6 Commissioners to look at opportunities to streamlining the
7 interconnection process of data centers on the transmission
8 side. And as a part of that, DOE -- FERC has opened up a
9 proceeding. So CPUC and CEC and CAISO will be, you know,
10 represented at the DOE to continue to both weigh in there,
11 but also at the FERC.

12 And DOE also is looking at reliability concerns,
13 especially in the Midwest, (indiscernible) and staff, so
14 they're looking at opportunities to improve reliability.
15 That's another work that has been done more recently.

16 And then kind of moving into the petroleum
17 transition, a lot of legislative work that has happened and
18 a lot more to be done. And just uplifting the work that
19 our staff, that office has put together in terms of the
20 wholistic plan for petroleum transition. Some of them have
21 been acted upon by the legislature. And one of the first
22 reports is due in March, continuing the work, especially in
23 what we call the bucket three. This is around community
24 and labor transition and funding issues and asset
25 retirement obligations. A lot of work is upon us.

1 We're also looking through thinking about how
2 best to set up California in terms of being able to import
3 adequately in a rated basis. I want to flag a couple of
4 developments on the infrastructure side. There have been
5 three pipeline projects that have been announced. All
6 three pipeline projects are currently under what is called
7 the open season, so commercial interest. Two pipelines are
8 from Texas, one in the North Texas, one's the Gulf Coast,
9 into California to bring in completed product fuel. So one
10 is by what is called ONEOK, and the other one by P66 and
11 Kinder Morgan is a joint effort. And another one coming
12 into Nevada.

13 So we have a lot of work being done. The West as
14 a whole is reorienting itself on how best to transition. A
15 lot of efforts on petroleum. The Nevada governor put
16 together a special committee on data reliability and
17 resiliency. And as a part of the legislative efforts, CEC
18 is beginning to bring in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Oregon,
19 Washington into a single conversation on thinking about the
20 regional transition of petroleum, not just California.

21 And finally, on the regional grid developments,
22 as most of you know, the legislation allows now, and it's
23 permissive language, gives CAISO to be a part of a regional
24 organization to move forward with regional markets. And
25 that effort, it's fully, you know, moving forward.

1 So a lot of change, a lot of good work, and none
2 of this can be done without our amazing staff that we have,
3 both, you know, the CEC, but also I want to thank our
4 office. I want to give a big kudos to the Executive
5 Office, the Chief Counsel's Office, you know, the
6 Assessments Division, STEP Division, and RREDI that we work
7 with that has been just phenomenal in moving all these
8 conversations forward.

9 And, you know, on my end, Raja and Ching
10 (phonetic) there, I just have to say, Raja didn't know what
11 he was walking into as he walked into SB 100 and other
12 joint agency report work. So thank you for all your work.

13 And finally, I want to close with one of the
14 pieces that Ching has been tracking, which is the demand
15 flexibility, which is our primary focus moving forward.
16 Thanks.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Gallardo?

19 All right. I have some images that I think staff
20 will pull up in a little bit.

21 In the meantime, I'm going to say go Dodgers,
22 because they did win the World Series. I'm a Dodgers fan,
23 but the Blue Jays did phenomenal. That was a really
24 exciting series to watch. I caught the late one in
25 Nashville when I got there.

1 So anyway, so we'll go to the next slide here.

2 I did want to remind everyone that even though we
3 haven't talked about Opt-In in a while, the staff is really
4 busy working on multiple applications at the same time and
5 doing a great job on it. So it's the STEP Division, the
6 Chief Counsel's Office, PAO-Plus, MPCO, IT, all of our
7 teams working together very collaboratively. And so you'll
8 see some more movement. But I did want to just show you a
9 couple of projects.

10 So the first image you're seeing here is the
11 proposed site for the Potentia Viridi project. We keep
12 getting asked what Potentia Viridi means. In Latin, it
13 means green power. And as you can see here, it's an open
14 area. It's 3,200 megawatt-hour BESS. We had a great
15 public meeting in Tracy back in September. We didn't have
16 a full room of people, but there were folks present, most
17 folks in support of the project.

18 And then we'll go to the next image here.

19 So this is more recent. This is the Corby
20 project, a 1,200 megawatt-hour BESS. So we had a public
21 meeting out in Vacaville on November 6th. Again, staff did
22 a tremendous job.

23 So you see this site here. This is a more
24 agricultural area. And those indentations there in the mud
25 are where the Chair almost got stuck going out to the site

1 visit. And I just bring that up because there was this
2 lovely man who stopped, he's part of the Air Force, and saw
3 him stuck and got out and helped him, right, Chair, which
4 was really kind. So just, you know, acknowledging Veterans
5 Day yesterday and how wonderful our service and our
6 military is.

7 We'll go to the next slide.

8 So Commissioner McAlister mentioned a little bit
9 about this, but there's a lot of talk about geothermal
10 right now. I've been more and more interested in
11 geothermal because of my work with Lithium Valley. There's
12 a lot of geothermal potential out there. And so now that
13 we're seeing the federal administration support geothermal,
14 I'm seeing a lot more events. And so trying to be present
15 and learn as much as I can there from others and also, you
16 know, being willing to share information from California.

17 So there's an image here from October 24th. I
18 joined Sierra Graves, our Director of Tribal Affairs, at
19 the Indigenous Geothermal Symposium, which is a portion of
20 the Geothermal Rising Conference out in Reno, Nevada. So
21 that was great to see that the tribes are also interested
22 in geothermal and seeing what the possibilities are for
23 them.

24 There was also a keynote by one of the ministers
25 in New Zealand. They wanted to meet with us as California

1 representatives, so we had a meeting with them.

2 And then also attended the NASEO Geothermal
3 Accelerator meeting out in Nashville where Commissioner
4 McAlister was. So that was October 28th. Just sharing the
5 image here of us both looking happy for being at the
6 conference.

7 So we'll go to the next slide.

8 These are just a few images from our Unity
9 Celebration that we had, which is an internal event back on
10 October 29th, which happened to be Carousel Gore's
11 birthday. So we also got to celebrate her birthday at the
12 Unity Celebration. But that's a very special event where
13 we create safe space for people to come and celebrate each
14 other and just being able to be together. And the message,
15 I think, from the stories we heard from the folks that
16 shared was that, you know, bringing their whole selves to
17 work is really important. And the space we've created here
18 at the Energy Commission enables that.

19 So I want to give a thanks to Commissioner
20 Skinner for sharing her story at the event. We also had
21 staff, Alicia Yofie (phonetic), Fabi Lau (phonetic), and
22 Livinus Ishaya share. And then we had eight awards for the
23 JAEDI Initiative. That stands for Justice, Access, Equity,
24 Diversity, Inclusion. So that was exciting to be able to
25 celebrate people who are investing in those principles and

1 advancing them in their work. And sometime this week, we
2 will share out pictures that our MPCO team took from the
3 event.

4 We'll go to the next slide.

5 This one I won't talk to in length about, but I
6 was invited to speak at the SCPPA Annual Conference, so I
7 was honored to do that. It was really helpful to hear more
8 about the issues that they're addressing. Data centers and
9 the impact of data centers and AI came up a lot. So I just
10 wanted to remind everybody that we're trying to do an en
11 banc, we're going to call it a summit though because en
12 banc sounds scary to them, with all of the MOUs and POUs so
13 that we can all be there in person and, as a group, be able
14 to engage with them and get some more alignment on areas of
15 priority for all of us. So I just wanted to remind you
16 about that. And we're looking towards quarter one of next
17 year to be able to do that summit.

18 And I also want to give a big thanks to Vice
19 Chair Gunda, who's been organizing roundtables with the
20 MOUs and the POUs that I think have really deepened our
21 relationship with MOUs and POUs and been able to create a
22 space where we can exchange information and be candid and
23 transparent and be able to move the needle further on our
24 mission of getting to 100 percent clean energy future. So
25 thank you, Vice Chair, for doing that.

1 And that concludes my report. Thank you.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, that's a tough act to
3 follow.

4 Commissioner Skinner, over to you.

5 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: I don't have the visuals,
6 but, you know, I'm a Giants fan, but look, you got to root
7 for the California team, go Dodgers. That was quite
8 brilliant. But a seven-game series is always fun no matter
9 what.

10 Anyway, I was unable to be here during our
11 discussion on the EVgo Services contract, but I just wanted
12 to bring it up because it's the first of our -- of CEC's
13 awards under the, what we call our FAST project, FAST 2.0,
14 which is designed to expand public DC fast charging EV
15 infrastructure for light-duty EVs. And, you know, we joke,
16 sometimes we call it the gas station model. You know,
17 we're used to, if you have a gas car, going to a gas
18 station, being able to fill up pretty fast and then go on
19 your way. And the benefit of DCFCs are the ability to
20 charge a vehicle pretty fast. And we want to have them in
21 lots of locations all over the state, which we are
22 beginning to achieve, and locations that are familiar to
23 people, accessible, and just give drivers that much more
24 confidence about having an EV and its reliability.

25 So that particular project will give us 42 new DC

1 fast chargers all through L.A. County. So it's a great,
2 great project. And we expect to have many more under the
3 FAST 2.0 awards.

4 So a couple of things that have been keeping me
5 busy. I was able to attend the L.A. Sustainable Business
6 Council's event on the 21st Century Transportation and
7 Energy Infrastructure. And they, of course, were
8 discussing the Olympics quite a lot. They have great
9 goals.

10 L.A. overall and the Olympics itself have great
11 goals for zero-emission transportation related to those
12 events, but also to further electrify the buildings.
13 They're using these investments that are coming in for
14 these large events to really upgrade infrastructure of all
15 types. And the Sustainable Business Council brought
16 together folks from LADWP, L.A. Metro, many of our own
17 agencies like CalSTA, and, of course, the CEC, to have
18 really good discussions about the challenges, how we can
19 combine public sector and private sector efforts to achieve
20 this. And it was a very valuable conference.

21 I also visited Detroit for the first time and
22 attended a conference that is called the Fourth EV Roadmap.
23 And it was great because there were other states there who
24 have not given up and who are also funding EV charging
25 infrastructure and making it, clearing the pathway, making

1 it easier to permit, and also expanding charging
2 infrastructure in multifamily housing.

3 So it was a very ubiquitous theme in the
4 conference was how much we all have to tackle that because
5 the lack of access to charging at or near your residence is
6 one of the biggest issues for keeping somebody from
7 necessarily acquiring an EV. So there was lots of great
8 discussion about just both entities that are doing that and
9 sharing experiences, and also on what all of us can do to
10 expand multi-housing -- charging at multifamily housing.

11 Additionally, I attended my second Advisory
12 Committee for our Clean Transportation Program. We are
13 updating the Investment Plan right now. And I, knock on
14 wood, I'm hopeful that it will be able to come before the
15 business meeting in December. And we had a great
16 discussion about ways that we want to prioritize that
17 investment for the fiscal year that we're in right now.

18 And lastly, I attended the Lesley McAllister
19 Symposium at University of San Diego, where they have a
20 institute at that law school focused on energy and
21 environment. And the whole conference was about
22 electricity affordability.

23 And I was blown away by who they were able to
24 assemble in that room. We had folks from the PUC. We had
25 folks who were former staffers there, former committee

1 consultants from our legislative committees who are now
2 working in this space. We had IOU representation. I mean,
3 we had all of the who's who, who are in the middle either
4 of analyzing our electricity policy in California or
5 actually developing it and implementing it. So it was
6 quite a fascinating event.

7 And those were some of the things that have been
8 keeping me busy and appreciate all of our good work.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Just before I go, Vice
10 Chair, you wanted to say something else?

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, Chair, because the
12 Dodgers and Giants were brought up today, and I just wanted
13 to share. I've been tracking the women's cricket World
14 Cup. And so, you know, India won.

15 But I think the reason I wanted to bring that up
16 was, which, you know, it's amazing how sports bring people
17 together and kind of are a way to fight for equality and
18 justice. There was a player in India who essentially was
19 vital for India's, I think, you know, win. But she had to
20 pretend to be a boy early on in her life. She had to cut
21 her hair and pretend to be a boy because the gender didn't
22 allow her to play in cricket.

23 And, you know, here you go. She is, you know,
24 grown up and playing in a World Cup and everybody was
25 chanting her name and wearing her T-shirt. So what a way

1 to, you know, kind of continue making progress in the
2 world.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I think that's great.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: So I'll just finish up with
5 that.

6 THE COURT: Well, I still remember in August of
7 2020, in the middle of the outages and this incredibly
8 intense period for us in the electric sector in California
9 and you said to me, that was the most intense experience of
10 my life, except for the India-Pakistan cricket match.

11 So just a couple of very quick updates. I had an
12 amazing roundtable and symposium with the Norwegian
13 delegation and the former prime minister last week. They
14 had a Norwegian tall ship in town, this beautiful sail
15 ship. They hosted a maritime seminar on how to decarbonize
16 the maritime sector. And they're doing some incredible
17 things.

18 So Norway in 2028 is banning certain classes of
19 ships, certain sizes, from fossil fuels. So they're going
20 to go all -- they're going to require all-electric for
21 certain types of vessels. And they had a new technology,
22 which I'll do my best to describe it. But basically, if
23 you think about a conventional hull of a, say, a 30-foot,
24 you know, or 25-foot, you know, fishing vessel, for
25 example, what they have is they basically put a cavity

1 inside the hull. So it sort of is, the bottom is sort of
2 recessed from the outside. And they have a technology
3 where they inject air, they pump air into that cavity. So
4 the boat rises and the friction is less, so they can reduce
5 fuel use 50 percent.

6 And so they're doing some incredible new
7 technologies around that and around electrification. And
8 so just wonderful to continue that partnership.

9 I also just want to share these tribal
10 roundtables that Commissioner Gallardo and I have been
11 doing, been really just incredibly, incredibly well put
12 together. And this last one was with Middletown Rancheria.
13 And I just really want to commend our wonderful tribal team
14 and the Public Advisor's Office. Thank you, you know,
15 Mona, for all your work and Ryan supporting this incredible
16 tribal team.

17 We are seeking some foundation support to launch
18 sort of what we're calling a Tribal Energy Academy, which
19 basically support tribes having dedicated energy staff to
20 be able to participate, to do the grant applications and so
21 on. So I've been working on that this last week.

22 I think I'm going to stop there in the interest
23 of time and move on to Item 13, Executive Director's
24 Report.

25 MS. MARTIN-GALLARDO: Thank you, Chair. Just one

1 item. We were very pleased last week to welcome Regina
2 Gaylor (phonetic) as our new Step Director. She comes to
3 us from 22 years at the Department of Energy. The last
4 three years, she was with one of the bipartisan
5 infrastructure law-established Office of Clean Energy
6 Demonstrations. And 19 years before that, she was working
7 on nuclear matters, nuclear security and nonproliferation.
8 So we're so excited to have her, one of the silver linings
9 of what's happening at DOE.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you so much.

11 I did want to just highlight for my colleagues,
12 one of the changes we're going to do is be putting a little
13 bit more in the consent calendar for non-controversial
14 items so that we can free up some more time for discussion
15 for some informational items.

16 There are some incredibly compelling technologies
17 happening here in California that I wanted to bring in and
18 so I've requested two informational items. One is Monarch,
19 which is doing the electric tractor. We've been funding
20 them. There out of Livermore. That's scaling, you know,
21 really fast. And the other is this really exciting
22 electric ferry project where the ferries are now being
23 constructed in Washington State. And we're doing the
24 charging infrastructure for that. So they're going to come
25 in next month. And thank you, Jen, for accommodating that.

1 Let's turn to Item 14, Public Advisories Report.

2 Mona?

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The CEC-CPUC
4 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group will have its next
5 public meeting on Friday, November 21st. And there will be
6 online access via Webex. And then there'll be an in-person
7 location at the CPUC office in San Francisco. Among other
8 items on the agenda, CEC staff is going to present its
9 Energy Equity Indicators project and solicit DACAG feedback
10 on the project, and then also engagement moving forward.
11 And DACAG member Gem Montes will present on the spotlight
12 on Inland Empire environmental justice communities to
13 highlight the daily life challenges of frontline
14 communities and advocates in the Inland Empire.

15 And that's all I have. Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 Item 15, Chief Counsel's Report.

18 MR. RANCHOD: Thank you, Chair, Commissioners. I
19 have an update on two developments. The first concerns a
20 litigation matter in which the state challenged a recent
21 U.S. Department of Energy policy change that impacted
22 federal funding provided to the states.

23 Some background quickly. Many state energy
24 agencies, including CEC, received substantial funding from
25 DOE through programs.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: A little closer to the mic.

2 MR. RANCHOD: Sorry, Chair.

3 Many state energy agencies, including CEC,
4 receive substantial funding from DOE through programs like
5 the State Energy Program that provide financial assistance
6 to the states in developing and implementing energy
7 conservation plans and improve energy efficiency and
8 advance many of our other important policy objectives.
9 State grantees generally receive this federal funding not
10 as a lump sum but rather through reimbursement from DOE
11 based on actual documented costs as they are incurred. And
12 the costs that are shared among multiple projects are
13 considered indirect costs and are eligible for
14 reimbursement.

15 About six or seven months ago, DOE announced a
16 policy flash that effectively would cap those indirect
17 grant costs that could be reimbursed at an arbitrary and
18 much lower level, just 10 percent of the total grant amount
19 as opposed to the amount allowed by the federal regulations
20 establishing the framework for reimbursement of costs using
21 federal grant funds. DOE's policy change followed similar
22 actions by other federal agencies you may have heard about
23 this spring attempting to also implement caps on indirect
24 costs for other federal grant programs.

25 In response to this DOE action, California,

1 joined with 19 other states, filed suit in federal district
2 court in Oregon to challenge the new indirect cost cap,
3 arguing it violated the Federal Administrative Procedures
4 Act and is arbitrary and capricious.

5 I'm pleased to report that earlier this week the
6 federal district court issued an order and judgment in that
7 case granting the plaintiff states motion for partial
8 summary judgment on the APA claim and vacating DOE's
9 indirect cost cap in its entirety. The court's grant of
10 summary judgment is dispositive of the matter and the
11 judgment also sets aside any prior rejections by DOE of
12 state funding applications based on the cap.

13 This is a decisive win for California and the
14 other states that filed suit and we thank the AG's office
15 for their successful representation of CEC's interests in
16 this case. I'll say including, also, impressively
17 obtaining a judgment just three months after filing of the
18 case.

19 The second item I wanted to update on is to
20 welcome the newest member of our legal team. Also a new
21 addition to CEC from federal service, Bryan Borsma
22 (phonetic) started with the Chief Counsel's Office two
23 weeks ago as an attorney in our Advocacy and Compliance
24 Unit, which as you know, among other things, provides legal
25 support for the permitting of large-scale projects through

1 our Opt-In Certification Program. Bryan joined CEC from
2 the Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor
3 where he provided legal advice to and represented BLM. He
4 also previously worked for the California Department of
5 Fish and Wildlife. So we're fortunate that Bryan's chosen
6 to return to state service with CEC and welcome him to the
7 team.

8 That concludes my report, Chair. The Commission
9 next will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Government
10 Code section 11126(e)(1). The Commission may adjourn to
11 closed session with its legal counsel to discuss pending
12 litigation including the matters listed in agenda Item 15B.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. So let's maybe convene
14 in my office at like 12:30 so we have a chance to get a
15 little lunch and then we'll go from there.

16 Thanks everyone. We're adjourned. Well, we have
17 to close the meeting but -- so we're recessing.

18 Sanjay, you think this might take an hour or so?
19 One hour? So why don't we plan to reconvene here 1:30.
20 Yeah.

21 (Closed session was convened from 12:18 p.m. until
22 1:36 p.m.)

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you everyone. The
24 closed session is done and we have nothing to report.

25 As a reminder, Item 8 and 9 from today's meeting

1 will be heard on Monday November 17th. Check the business
2 meeting docket for additional details.

3 With that the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

4 (The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of January, 2026.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

January 6, 2026