

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	2026 Business Meeting Agendas, Transcripts, and Public Comments
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California Energy Commission
Business Meeting Agenda

March 12, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In-person at:
California Natural Resources Building
715 P Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access via Zoom™

<https://zoom.us/> Meeting ID: **886 5692 5780** Passcode: **energy**

Remote participation instructions are below, after the agenda items.

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. 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). Agenda items may be taken out of order as needed.

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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THE CEC WILL CONSIDER AND MAY TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Public Comment.

Any person wishing to comment on information items (non-voting items) shall provide comments during this period.

2. Agency Announcements.

The Chair may announce relevant matters to the public and the CEC, including agency updates, events, and other opportunities. Discussion may follow.

3. Consent Calendar.

Items will be taken up and voted on as a group. A commissioner may request that an item be moved and discussed later in the meeting.

- a. Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM). Proposed order approving AHAM's bathroom exhaust fan testing and certification program, including use of the AHAM Verifide® Mark, as an alternative procedure under CCR, Title 24, section 10-109(h), to demonstrate compliance with the manufacturer airflow rating requirements for local mechanical exhaust fans, including bathroom exhaust fans, under the 2025 Energy Code, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Contact: Anushka Raut
- b. Load Management Standards Compliance Plans. Proposed order approving Load Management Standards compliance plans for two community choice aggregators, adopting staff's recommendation that these actions are exempt from CEQA, and extending the deadline for all load serving entities with approved compliance plans to comply with the requirements for the statewide standard tool in CCR, Title 20, section 1623(c)(2). The Load Management Standards detailed in CCR, Title 20, section 1623.1 require regulated entities to submit compliance plans to the CEC for approval. Contact: Gavin Situ
 - i. MCE Community Choice Energy
 - ii. Sonoma Clean Power
- c. The Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment, Inc. (AWWEE). Proposed resolution approving a \$2,500 purchase order with AWWEE for a one-year membership, including use of the CEC's logo in membership activities. Membership supports CEC staff diversity, recruitment, and development opportunities, and it expands education and training to advance justice, access, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. (Energy Resources Programs Account (ERPA) Funding) Contact: Tiffany Solorio
- d. American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Proposed resolution approving agreement 300-25-007 for a \$60,000 contract for a one-year membership with ACEEE's Ally Program at the Vanguard level, including use of the CEC's logo in membership activities, and a CEC co-sponsorship of \$20,000 for the 2026 Summer Study to be held in August in Monterey. The annual membership provides CEC staff with access to a network of energy efficiency experts, leaders, and decision makers across multiple cross-sector conferences throughout the year. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Tiffany Solorio

- e. Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy (WRISE). Proposed resolution approving agreement 100-25-002 for a \$10,000 membership contract with WRISE, including promotion using the CEC's logo and talent acquisition benefits for CEC. This membership will support WRISE's annual events and activities, including an annual leadership forum and Executive Women's Summit. The CEC's membership will enable all staff to be members and participate in various WRISE activities throughout the year that support their education, training, and engagement. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Erik Stokes
- f. Offshore Wind California. Proposed resolution approving agreement 700-25-002 with Offshore Wind California, for a \$20,000 co-sponsorship of the 2026 Pacific Offshore Wind Summit and approving use of the CEC logo in co-sponsorship advertisements. The conference will take place on May 18-20, 2026, in Long Beach and will serve as a key platform for stakeholders across sectors to connect, collaborate, and advance key initiatives. (ERPA Funding) Contact: Sharon Purewal
- g. Qualus, LLC (Qualus). Proposed resolution approving agreement 800-25-005 with Qualus for a \$28,801 contract to provide the CEC with technical support to update the Commercial Forecast Model, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. Qualus will migrate forecast model code to modern software, revise key inputs (e.g., energy use intensities, saturations), improve forecasting capabilities, create a user manual, and provide training to CEC staff. (General Fund Funding). Contact: Mohsen Abrishami
- h. City of Downey. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-015 with City of Downey for a \$560,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 10 public electric vehicle (EV) direct current fast charging ports at one site in the City of Downey to increase public access to reliable, fast, and convenient EV charging. (Clean Transportation Program (CTP) Funding) Contact: Devika Singh
- i. EvGateway. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-016 with EvGateway for a \$967,750 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 10 EV direct current fast charging ports in Bakersfield to increase public access to reliable, fast, and convenient EV charging. (CTP Funding) Contact: Devika Singh
- j. EV CHARGING SOLUTIONS, INC. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-017 with EV CHARGING SOLUTIONS, INC. for a \$1,824,169 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 40 public EV direct current fast charging ports across at least two sites in Santa Ana and Ventura to increase public access to reliable, fast, and convenient EV charging. (CTP Funding) Contact: Devika Singh

k. Blue Planet Systems Corporation. Proposed resolution adopting CEQA findings for Blue Planet Systems Corporation's Temporary Carbon Capture and Mineralization Facility Pilot Project, and approving grant agreement PIR-25-001 with Blue Planet Systems Corporation. (Public Interest Energy Reserve Natural Gas Funding)
Contact: Colin Lee

- i. CEQA Findings. Findings that, based on the City of Pittsburg's environmental analysis and documentation as CEQA Lead Agency (including mitigation measures), Planning Department staff report(s), and Planning Commission Resolutions and use permit approval, and substantial evidence collected by CEC staff about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, the proposed project presents no new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts beyond those already considered and mitigated by the Lead Agency. Implementation of the Lead Agency's mitigation measures will mitigate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed grant project to a less than significant level. The City's documentation includes the Pittsburg Planning Commission's approval of a 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (Resolution No. 10130) and use permit; a 2021 Addendum #1 to the MND (Resolution 10179); a 2022 Addendum #2 with a 24-month time extension (Resolution No. 10208), and a January 27, 2026, Resolution No. 10282, approving another 24-month time extension. The Planning Commission reasoned that there were "no changed circumstances and new information is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment," citing the CEQA Common Sense Exemption, i.e., CCR, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3).
- ii. Blue Planet Systems Corporation. Proposed approval of agreement PIR-25-001 with Blue Planet Systems Corporation for a \$2,100,000 grant to fund the optimization of the performance of its concrete mix designs to improve strength and durability, as well as displace the carbon footprint of cement, transforming concrete production from an emissions-intense process to an adaptable, robust decarbonization method in the State of California. This agreement will initially provide \$525,000 for calendar year 2026, and if the Recipient receives further extension of the Conditional Use Permit past December 31, 2026, up to an additional \$1,575,000 may be added, by CEC approval through an amendment, for completing the project implementation at a facility in Pittsburg.

4. Information Item – Bidirectional EV Charging Benefits, Opportunities, and CEC Actions.

Staff will present an overview of the substantial resources and benefits that bidirectional EV charging offers to both drivers and the electric grid, based on EV sales figures and staff modeling. Staff will also share the greatest barriers to

successfully deploying bidirectional charging at scale, and the latest actions staff are taking to continue progress. Contact: Vincent Weyl (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

5. Information Item – Staff Report on Approaches to Integrate Non-energy Impacts (NEIs) in Resource Supply Modeling (Docket No. 24-OIIP-03).

In March 2024, the CEC adopted an Order Instituting an Informational Proceeding (OIIP) on Non-energy Impacts (NEI) as a transparent process to investigate methods to incorporate NEIs in the CEC's electricity resource planning analysis. Incorporating NEIs enables a more holistic assessment of potential impacts of resource choices. CEC staff will provide an update about a staff report planned for release in April to seek public feedback on proposed new integration approaches developed by CEC staff. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate into the testing for the new approaches. Contact: Jacqueline G. Jones (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

6. Energy Data Collection Regulations – Phase 3 for Natural Gas and Renewable Natural Gas Data Collection (Docket No. 25-OIR-02).

Proposed resolution adopting staff's recommendation to add to and amend the Natural Gas and Renewable Natural Gas Data Collection regulations contained in California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 20, Division 2, Chapter 3, Article 3, sections 1302, 1308, 1309, 1314, 1353, 1382, 1383, and 1384.5, and adopting staff's recommendation that the amendments and additions are exempt from the CEQA. The proposed amendments and additions will expand the CEC's analysis and forecasting capabilities by requiring reporting of key information related to natural gas systems and metered consumer usage, renewable natural gas, and metered electricity use. Adoption of these regulations would make the proposed regulatory additions and amendments permanent with the intention of them becoming effective July 1, 2026. Contact: Jason Orta (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

7. Publicly Owned Utility Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs): Riverside Public Utilities.

Proposed order adopting the CEC's determination that the Riverside Public Utilities IRP filing complies with Public Utilities Code section 9621. Public Utilities Code section 9622 requires publicly owned utilities subject to Public Utilities Code section 9621 to submit their adopted IRPs to the CEC for review. Public Utilities Code section 9621 requires IRPs to meet certain requirements, including greenhouse gas emission reduction, renewable energy resource procurement, carbon neutrality, reliability, and other requirements. Contact: Bryan Neff (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

8. Ocean Charter School.

Proposed resolution approving agreement 001-25-RLF with Ocean Charter School in Los Angeles City and County for an \$849,700 Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade

Energy Efficiency Program (KTEP) loan at zero-percent interest, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. The loan will finance a rooftop mounted 269.7 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the school buildings and demand recirculation controllers on the domestic hot water system. The project is estimated to provide annual electric savings of 292,610 kilowatt hours, natural gas savings of 125 therms, save \$57,357 in utility costs per year, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 61.6 metric tons. KTEP is funded by a federal Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan award, and all loan award funding is contingent upon receipt of funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. (KTEP Funding) Contact: Danuta Drozdowicz (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

9. Developing Next Generation, All Electric Heat Pumps Using Low Global Warming Potential Refrigerants (GFO-24-305).

This solicitation sought to fund applied research and development projects that will develop next-generation high-efficiency heat pumps using low or ultra-low global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants in existing residential buildings. Projects will develop heat-pumps water heating, combination water and space conditioning, and space conditioning systems for use in single family and multi-family buildings in California. The resulting Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) grant agreements include six ~~seven~~ projects totaling \$9,742,220 ~~\$11,742,220~~. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Harrison Reynolds (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- ~~a. The Regents of the University of California as Manager and Operator of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-044 with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for a \$2,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will fund the design, prototype construction, and laboratory and field testing of an advanced refrigerant 120V heat pump water heater. Design considerations also include physical size/form factor, condensate management, and the incorporation of controls for dynamic grid response.~~
- b. Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-050 with Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. for a \$1,199,004 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will fund the development and demonstration of a 120V electric heat pump water heater system using refrigerants with ultra-low global warming potential, in Irwindale.
- c. Association for Energy Affordability. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-047 with Association for Energy Affordability for a \$1,499,630 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will develop an electric heat pump prototype using ultra-low global warming potential refrigerants. The system will provide heating, cooling and hot water

heating and will be demonstrated in multifamily residences. The system will be evaluated for advances to safety, energy performance, cost effectiveness, and market potential.

- d. Prospect Silicon Valley. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-049 with Prospect Silicon Valley for a \$1,849,978 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will demonstrate an advanced, cost-competitive CO₂-based heat pump system capable of providing simultaneous heating, cooling, and domestic hot water for multifamily buildings, replacing conventional gas-fueled systems with ultra-low GWP refrigerant technology. The initiative aims to reduce first costs through modular design, validate performance through rigorous lab and field testing, and showcase grid-responsive controls for demand flexibility and energy efficiency.
- e. The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Berkeley campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-045 with The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Berkeley campus for a \$2,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project aims to develop a cost-effective, energy-efficient air-to-water heat pump (AWHP) integrated with low-cost thermal energy storage (TES) to provide domestic hot water and space conditioning while enabling demand flexibility for residential buildings.
- f. The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-040 with The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis campus for a \$1,301,773 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will develop and test two distinct technology pathways for achieving ultra-low GWP heat pump technologies that are safe, efficient, cost-effective, and well-suited for California's residential market.
- g. Icebox Heat Pumps Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-042 with Icebox Heat Pumps Inc. for a \$1,891,835 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will support development and demonstration of a high-efficiency, fully electric CO₂-based heat pump that replaces natural gas and high-GWP refrigerant HVAC systems in residential buildings, advancing building decarbonization, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and lowering energy costs for Californians.

10. Retrofitting Existing Residential Buildings with Innovative Envelope Solutions (GFO-24-310).

This solicitation sought to fund applied research and development and technology demonstration and deployment projects to develop and demonstrate new building

envelope technologies, installation techniques and manufacturing processes to validate the technology in real-life situations with the goals of improving the value proposition and driving uptake for existing building envelope retrofits. This item includes four projects totaling \$6,015,783. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Jeanie Mar (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-048 with Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. for a \$1,780,779 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will evaluate, deploy, and demonstrate a high-performance aerogel fiber mat insulation that is easy-to-install, environmentally friendly, non-flammable, and non-toxic. The insulation will be installed in low-income residential retrofits in a range of California climate zones, aiming to reduce space conditioning loads, lower energy bills, and increase building resilience, occupant comfort, health and safety, while supporting California's broader decarbonization efforts.
- b. Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-041 with Institute of Gas Technology dba GTI Energy for a \$1,750,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will demonstrate the performance and benefits of vacuum insulated glass (VIG) windows via laboratory testing, thermal modeling and field demonstration. The project will also explore improvements in VIG value propositions, address cost and durability concerns, and develop a plan for broad market adoption. The project is partnering with major VIG and window manufacturers to develop and demonstrate high-performance VIG solutions in single-family and multi-family residential buildings in Sonoma and Ventura Counties.
- c. Association for Energy Affordability. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-046 with Association for Energy Affordability for a \$1,985,004 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. The project will design, test, and commercialize integrated, spray-applied robotic and aerosol-based attic and wall retrofit solutions, that make it faster, safer, and more affordable to improve the envelopes of existing California homes.
- d. The Regents of the University of California as Manager and Operator of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-25-043 with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for a \$500,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will fund the development, testing, and demonstration of advanced window retrofit solutions that significantly improve thermal performance and reduce air infiltration in existing frames.

11. Lead Commissioner and Presiding Member Reports.

Lead commissioners on policy matters and presiding members on delegated committees may report to the CEC on relevant matters and discussion may follow.

12. Executive Director's Report.

13. Public Advisor's Report.

14. Chief Counsel's Report.

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another person or employee.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss pending litigation, including the following matters:
 - i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. v. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737)
 - ii. California Fuels and Convenience Alliance v. California Energy Commission, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000058)
 - iii. Interlink Products International, Inc. v. California Energy Commission (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000001)
 - iv. California Energy Commission v. KIGT, Inc., et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV018816)
 - v. City of San Juan Capistrano v. California Energy Commission (Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2025-01507450)
 - vi. State of Washington, et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-00848-TL)
 - vii. State of New York, et al. v. Donald Trump, et al. (United States District Court, District of Rhode Island, Case No. 25-cv-39-JJM-PAS)
 - viii. State of New York, et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al. (United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, Case No. 1:25-cv-11221-WGY)
 - ix. State of New York, et al. v. U.S. Department of Energy, et al. (United States District Court, District of Oregon, Case No. 6:25-cv-01458-MTK)
 - x. State of Arizona, et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-02015-TMC)

- xi. Maryland Clean Energy Center, et al. v. United States of America (United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 25-1738 C)
 - xii. State of California, et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-02574-TL)
 - xiii. State of California, et al. v. Wright, et al. (United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 3:26-cv-01417-RS)
- c. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to deliberate on a decision to be reached in the following proceedings the state body is required by law to conduct:
- i. Morton Bay Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-01
 - ii. Elmore North Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-02
 - iii. Black Rock Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-03
- d. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss any judicial or administrative proceeding that was formally initiated after this agenda was published; to discuss whether to initiate litigation; or to discuss a significant exposure to litigation against the CEC.

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Adjournment. Depending on time and the orderly management of proceedings, the CEC may adjourn, recess, or postpone any noticed hearing or meeting to be continued the next day, another specific date or time, or the next business meeting. Any such adjournment will be noticed at the time the order of adjournment is made. (Government Code sections 11128.5, 11129)