

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Informational Proceeding on Tribal Energy Sovereignty and Tribal Affairs
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Regional Roundtable 4: CEC Order Instituting an Informational Proceeding on Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty

March 17, 2026

Meeting Logistics

- Public Comment Opportunities
- Principles of a Respectful Meeting

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



CHRISTINA E. SNIDER
TRIBAL ADVISOR

CALIFORNIA TRUTH & HEALING COUNCIL

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPECTFUL MEETINGS

Agenda for Today

- Morning Registration
- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Tribal Consultation
- Tribal Energy Sovereignty
- Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development
- Lunch Break
- Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants
- Tribal Energy Equity Indicators
- Improving Energy Project Development Processes
- Closing Remarks

Welcome and Opening Remarks



Tribal Consultation Policy



CEC Consultation Policy

- Adopted 2014
- Administrative Update February 2024
- California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy November 2012 (Recently updated 9/2025)
- Assembly Bill (AB) 923



CEC Tribal Consultation Policy Overview

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

Examples From Other Consultation Policies

- Adequate preparation
- Mutual respect
- Relationship building
- Co-management
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Importance of cultural resources and restoration
- Transparency and on-going communication

What would Tribes like to See in CEC's Consultation Policy? (slide co-developed 03/17/26)

- More emphasis on Government to government
- Expanded outreach needed for meetings
 - Reaching tribal membership, not just Tribal Council
 - Tribal sites to post information about meetings/events
 - CEC Tribal email list
- Transparency – government to government consultations with Tribal Council. Expand to a 20-day notice of events to share with Tribes and Tribal communities.
- Consultations with Tribal elders.
- Use frequented channels of communication (ie Facebook page) to get word out about events.
- Include information about how wider community can submit comments on these policies.
- Share information with Tribal community members, in addition to Tribal Council
- Have a way for the wider community to provide public comment (provide information to Tribal Councils to share out, social media options)
- Pursue various avenues to announce a meeting, some members are not online. Need flyers and word-of-mouth too.

How to Implement CEC's Tribal Consultation Policy (slide co-developed 03/17/26)

- Reach out to Tribal committees, ie senior committees, culture committees, Tribal Youth, etc.
- Various programs to assist help in posting workshops or meetings: Youth, Cultural Committees, Senior Center Program, mailing lists, asking to pass out flyers to ensure information is shared.
- Connect with Secretaries at Tribal offices to get information out; ensure following Tribe's policies and guidelines.
- Find ways to incorporate voices who cannot attend in person; involve the whole Tribe
- Consider holding meeting not during work day so more people can attend.
- Transparency for ALL, not just some
- Tribal Council could assign a delegate to provide information from the CEC to the larger community
- CEC has a dedicated Tribal Affairs team to act as liaison with Tribes
- CEC has a responsibility to share information (threats, challenges from energy development) with Tribes
- CEC needs to work with Tribes to support alternatives offered by the Tribes when it comes to energy development. CEC has help legitimize the Tribe's preferred options in the eyes of the developer.
- Need to work as partners with Tribes. Understand the Tribe's goals before meetings. Come to the Tribal Councils for discussions around specific projects
- CEC could help Tribes better understand what the industry is doing; better messaging around energy issues affecting California and the industry as a whole

Ahe'hee' - Thank You!



Tribal Energy Sovereignty

History of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty





Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Goals

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



Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Actions

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



Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Actions Related to Land

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

Where we are today...

State Funding Eligibility Expanded

- Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA)

Capacity Funds

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

Tribal Set-Asides

- Tribal Specific Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (Tribal EBD)

Removing Funding Barriers

- Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, and Workforce Training and Development

Tribal Engagement in Planning

- Offshore Wind
- SB 100

Advancing in Tribal Energy Sovereignty State Partnership Frameworks



Structural Models for Tribal Energy Sovereignty

TACE



Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy

What does tribal energy sovereignty look like for your tribe? (slide co-developed 03/17/26)

- Document or take count of elders without power (is living without power considered energy sovereignty?)
- Clean energy backups, like solar generators, to elders without access to power
- Connect with farmers regarding power lines to ensure stability; get a grid map of power lines in agricultural areas; broader request for data sharing (Grid map of power lines)
- Identify right-of-ways regarding electric poles
- Looking holistically at energy infrastructure
- Creating emergency plans for various situations; having emergency backups
- Utilities generating electricity from Tribes' water should at least give Tribes a discount for that electricity because of water rights.

What would be the most critical thing to include in the draft Tribal Energy Sovereignty Policy? What can the CEC do to better support tribal energy sovereignty goals? (slide co-developed 03/17/26)

- Provide links to help Tribes understand resources available and what other Tribes are doing in this space (kind of like a Starter Kit for Tribes, ie on Tribal Utility Authorities, how to have your own power, etc.)
- Sovereignty goes beyond energy; trying to create a definition that applies to energy.
- Sovereignty for some Tribes means being disconnected from utility companies; creating own power such as microgrids; being able to affect pricing
- Need more time to gather community input; come back and address this question
- Example of another Tribe – took over existing transmission lines when right-of-way expired.
- CEC could provide information about developers who work fairly with Tribes and have Tribes best interest

Morning Break



Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development



Introduction

- Power plants can affect tribal cultural resources
- Project planning: limits time, consultation, flexibility
- Advance planning: encourages time, consultation, flexibility
- Two previous examples of advance planning
- Overview of potential advance planning process

Background on DRECP

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

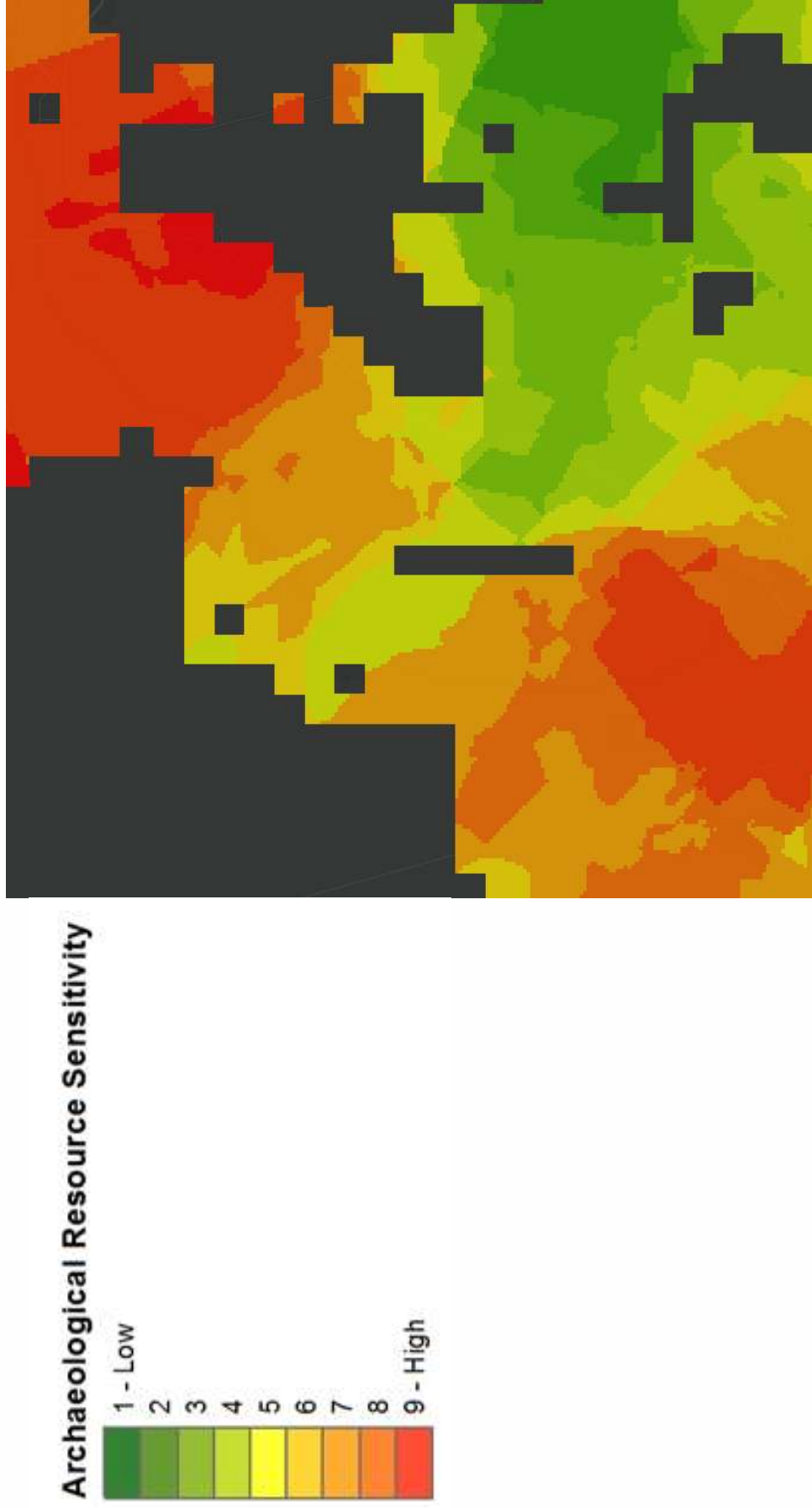
Summary of Data-gathering Initiative

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

Summary of DGI Methods (continued)

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

DGI Archaeological Sensitivity Map



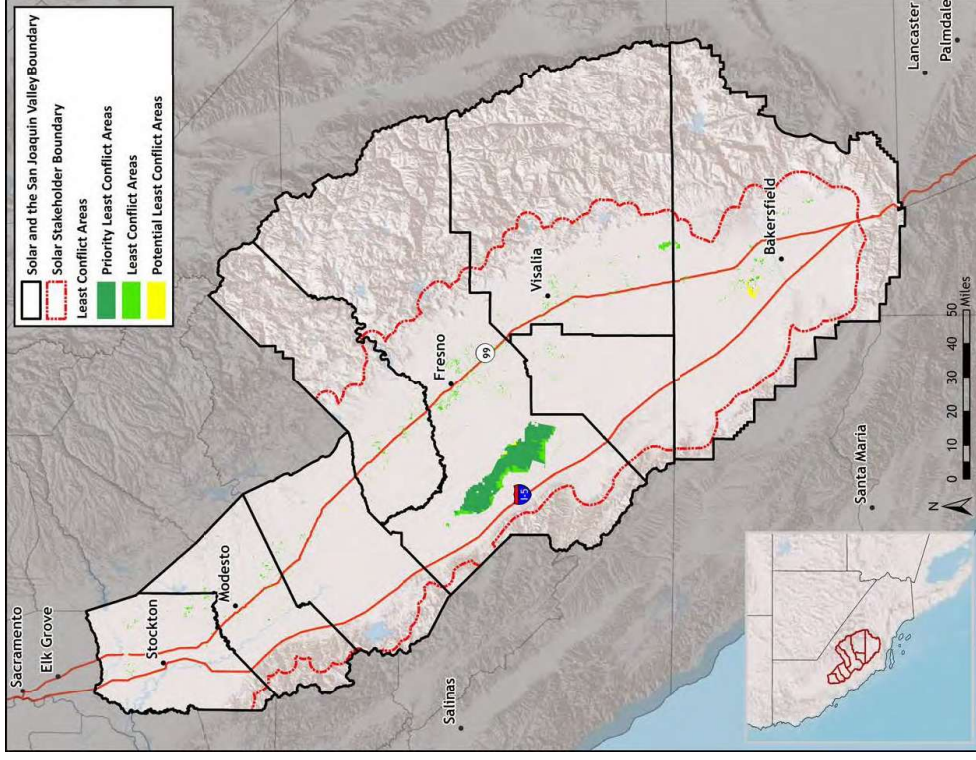
San Joaquin Valley Solar

- **Least-Conflict Areas for San Joaquin Valley Solar**
- Agencies, agriculture, bio & tribal conservation, industry
- Covered 9.5M acres across eight counties
- Not driven by laws or regulations
- Tribes affected and steward important knowledge

San Joaquin Valley Solar: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Methods

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

San Joaquin Valley Solar: Tribally Identified Least-Conflict Areas

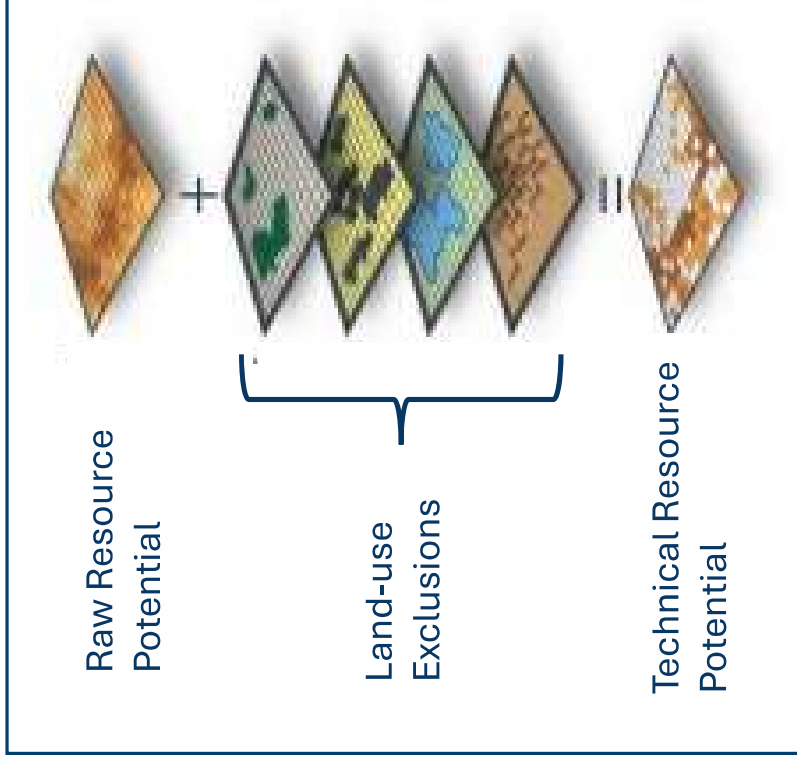


Introduction to CEC Land Use Screens

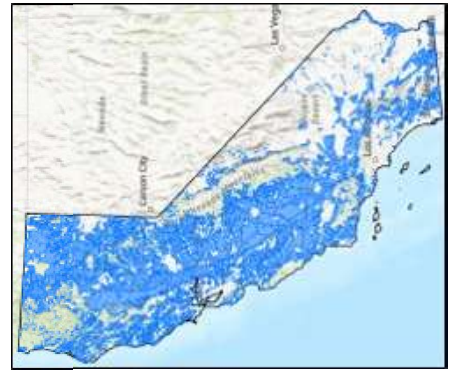
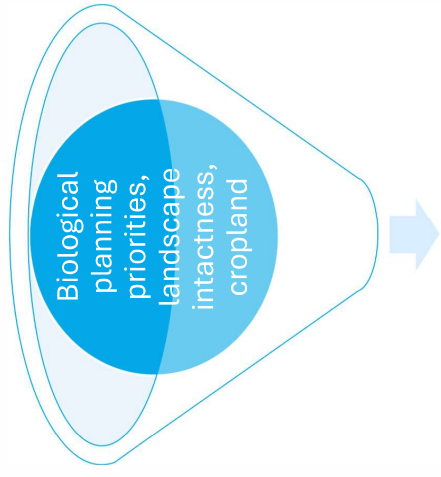
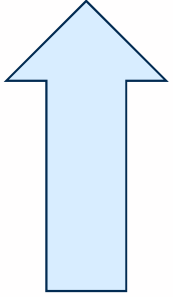
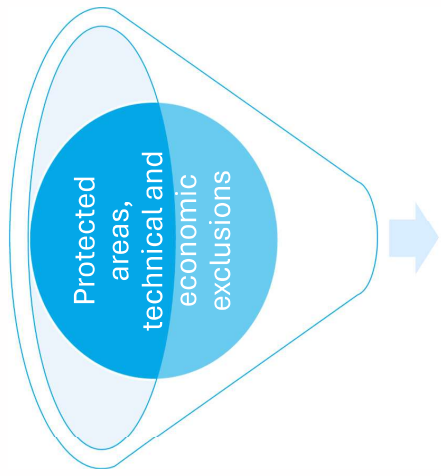


Land Use Screens for Electric System Planning

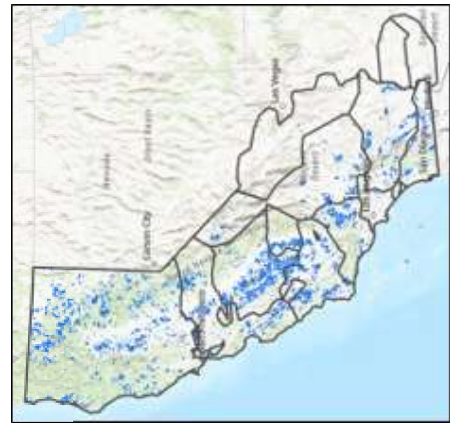
- Achieving climate goals requires significant clean and renewable energy development (e.g., solar, wind) and rapid build rates
- Environmental and land use “screens”
 - Identify at a high level where build is feasible (technical resource potential)
 - Highlight areas that may face possible constraints and conflicts, including areas of environmental sensitivity, conservation, and other land uses (e.g. cropland)
 - Inform state planning efforts, including IRP/TPP and SB 100
- Screens are landscape-level planning information: intended to inform high-level estimates of renewable build, not specific project locations
- Last major update of CEC Land Use Screens in 2023: [Report and Data Viewer](#) covering solar, wind, and conventional geothermal resources



Screens Example: Identifying Technical Resource Potential (Solar)



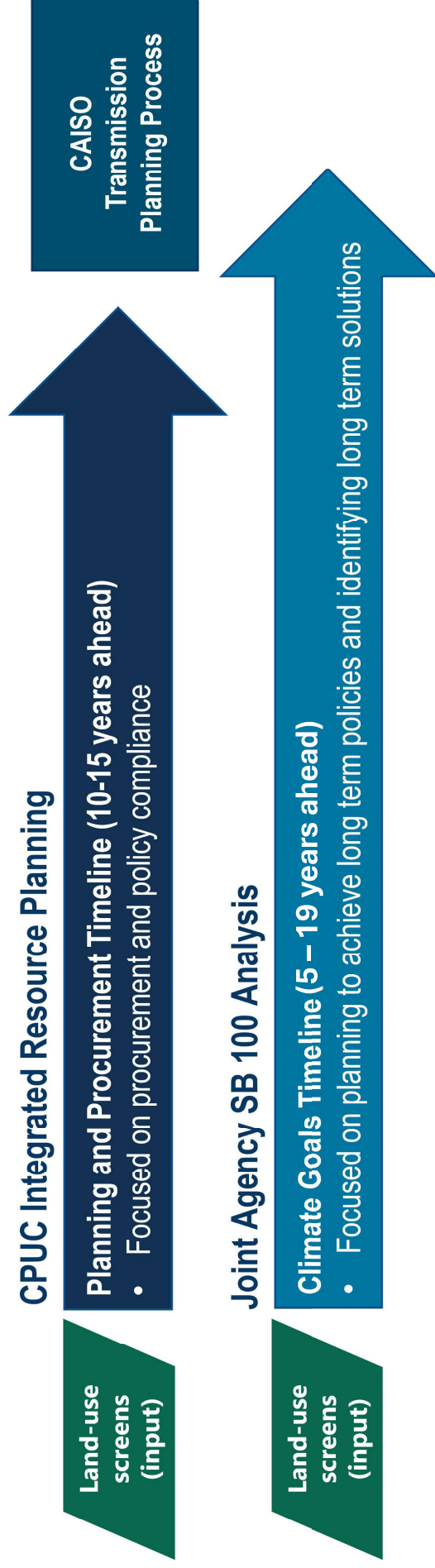
Solar technical resource potential after applying these “base” exclusions



Lower-Implication land: Solar technical resource potential after applying additional environmental constraints



Land Use in State Resource Planning

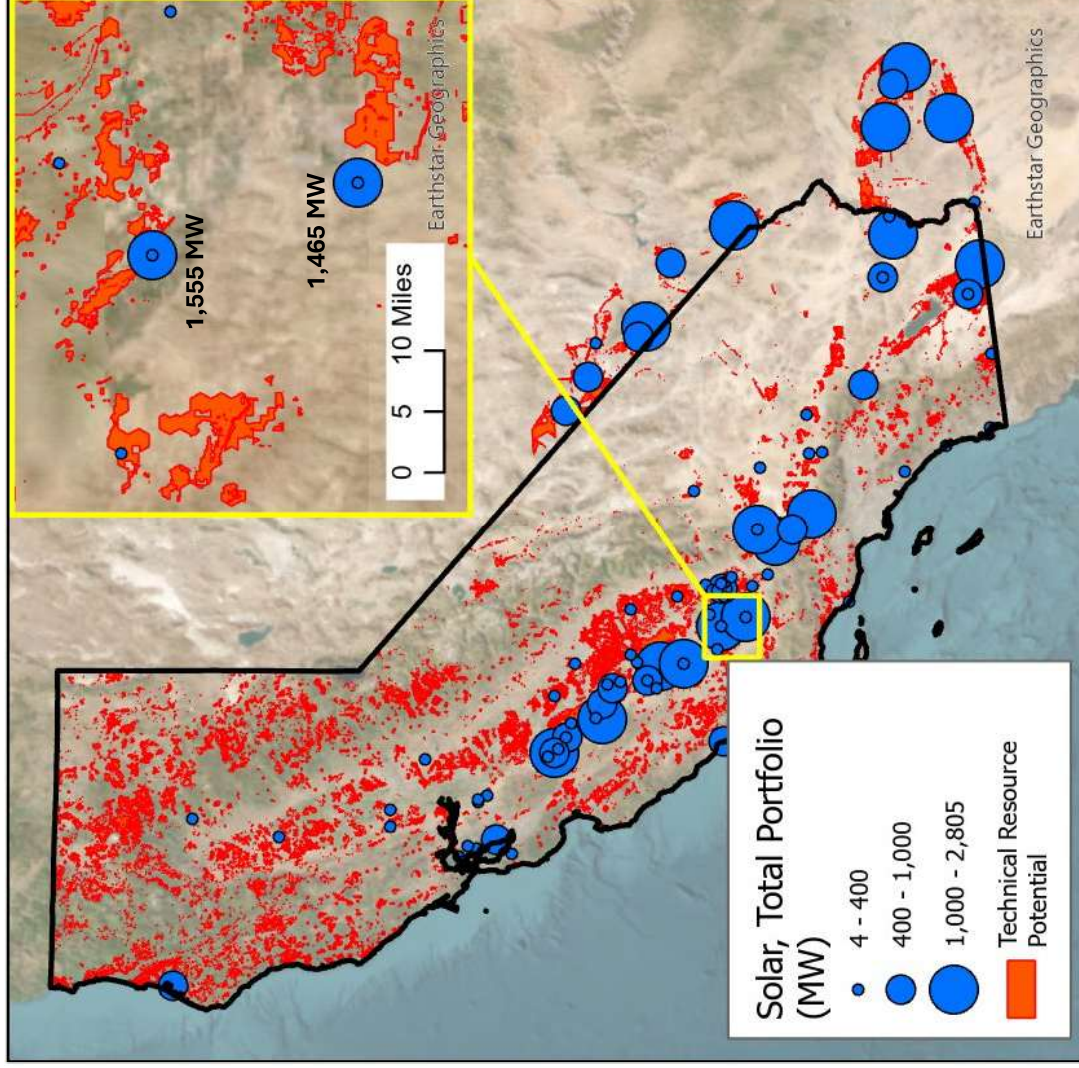


Land-use screens:

- Increase transparency in planning processes
- Support early identification of issues or barriers to development, which in turn supports long-lead time transmission investments

Example of Land Use Data in State Resource Planning: 2026-2027 TPP 2036 Base Case Portfolio, Solar Resources

- This MW “mapping” is used in the CPUC Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process to guide development of new transmission
- Informed by land use and environmental information from the screens
- Does not currently explicitly account for tribal cultural resources
- See slide 4 of [this deck](#) onwards for more information on how land use data and other factors are used to determine mapping



Opportunities for Participation in Land Use Planning

These public energy planning processes incorporate the land use screens

- CPUC Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Process
 - Annual cycle, first workshop in Spring 2026
 - More information [here](#) and [here](#); subscribe [here](#)
- CEC Land Use Screens Update
 - Notice will be posted to a public [CEC docket](#); stay tuned

Comparing Approaches: Status Quo

Typical Project Planning Sequence

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

Comparing Approaches: Advance Planning

- Can reduce schedule-related pressure
- Can increase consultation frequency and quality
- Reduces pressure associated with optioned land
- Fewer conflicts about confidential information
- Can reduce risks for tribes and developers

What Are Some Benefits to Using Tribal Land Use Screens?

Slide co-developed 03/17/26

- Land that has cultural resources that need to be protected can be highlighted and deemed off-limit for development
- Does advance planning affect energy development outside CEC jurisdiction?
- Should advance planning incorporate how ancestral artifacts are handled?
- Tribal Councils may need to get involved in how artifacts are handled
- With advance planning it is important for developers have Cultural Monitors or Advisors to assist with identifying cultural resources. Advance planning should not replace ground level surveys.
- Cultural consent is different from Tribe to Tribe and developers need to plan for that
- Cultural resources and traditions are sacred; Tribes should go first before any developers or agencies can access the land
- Adverse impact reports are important
- Section 602 – environmental impacts are researched and adverse impacts that will take place when working on Tribal lands

What Are Some Drawback to Using Tribal Land Use Screens?

Slide co-developed 03/17/26

- Concerns that GIS and other technological approaches will replace the human element, to the detriment of tribal cultural resources.
- Making sure that in advance planning developers still need to have cultural monitors on site.

Lunch Break

Expected to resume at around 1:00 pm

Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants



CEC Tribal Grants Working Group

Goals:

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

EXAMPLE GRANT STRUCTURES

Example 1: Equitable Building Decarbonization Program, Tribal Direct Install

Overview: Retrofits to buildings and homes owned by tribes, tribal members, or tribal organizations.

Structure of grant:

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



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

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

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

Structure of grant:

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



Example 3: Fifth Climate Change Assessment Tribal Research Grant Program

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

Structure of grant:

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

Example 4: Funding Tribal Microgrids

Overview: Over \$130 million towards Tribal Microgrids funded through:

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



DISCUSSION

What would you like to see in terms of the structure of CEC grant opportunities? (slide co-developed 03/17/26)

- Hold workshops on Equitable Building Decarbonization program
- Hold workshops around microgrids – what they are, what they do, how to get started, etc

THANK YOU!

Tribal Energy Equity Indicators

Energy Equity Indicators Tool

Data Visualization and Mapping



Database of Equity Data



Geographic Data Layers



Data Access and Analysis



Insights to Help
Prioritize CEC Efforts
and Investments for
Tribes

Relevance to Other OIIP Efforts

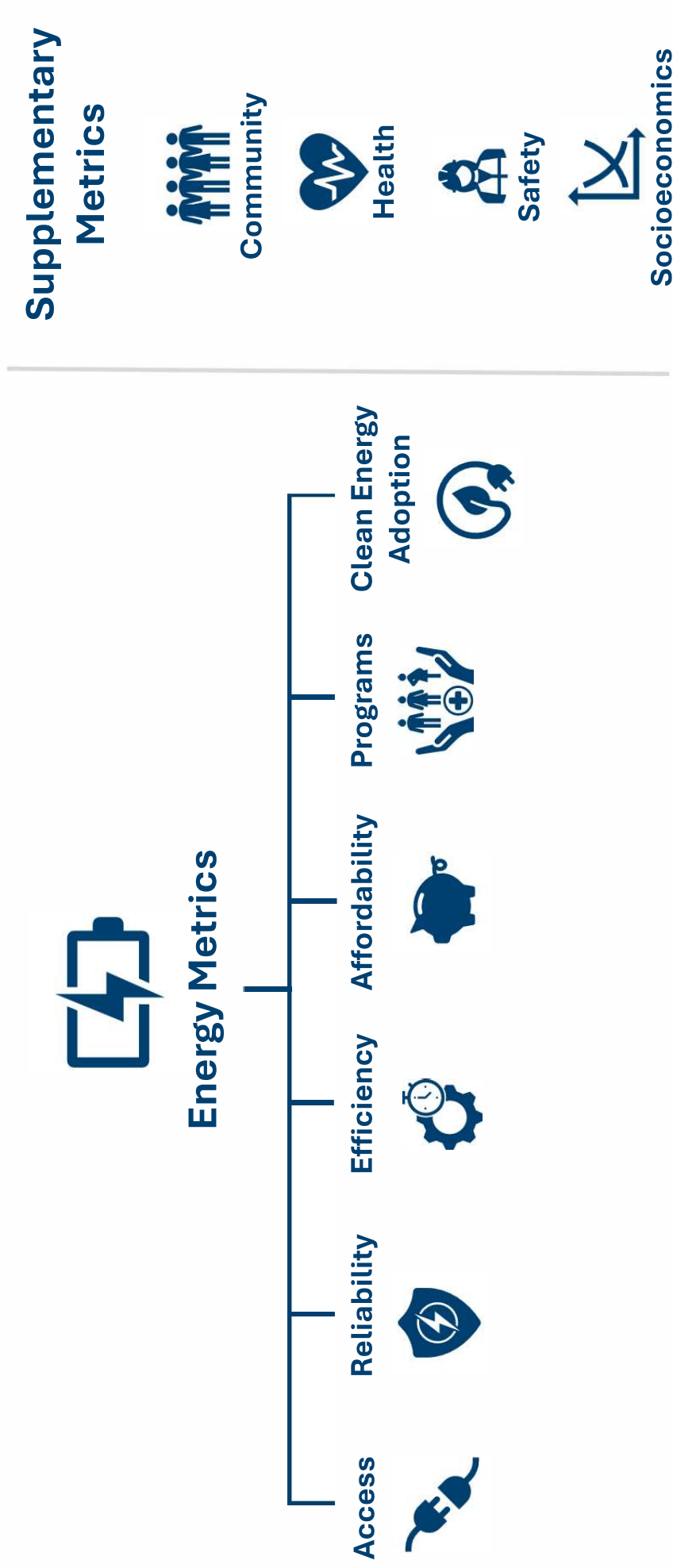
Energy Resources

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

Energy Grants

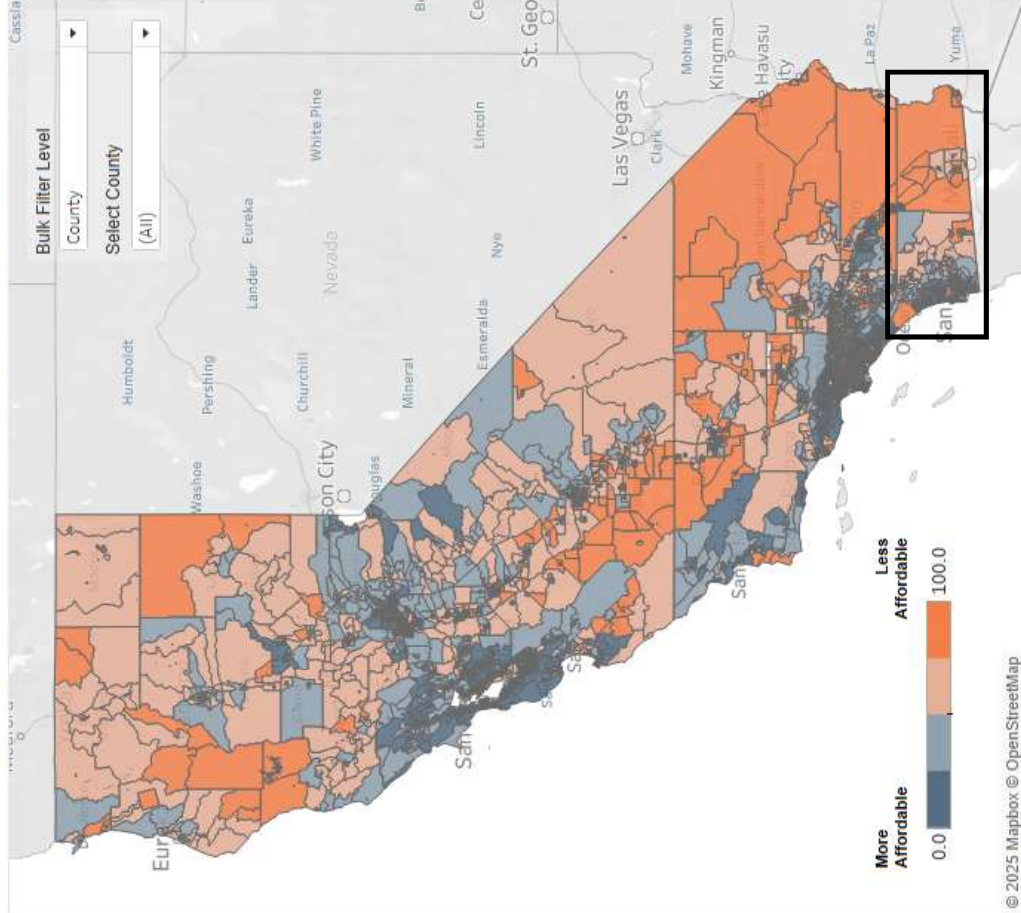
- Help identify communities that could use support to tackle their energy challenges
- Provide quantitative metrics to help strengthen grant proposals

Energy Equity Metrics Categorization



A Deep Dive into Energy Affordability

Energy Affordability Index by Census Tract



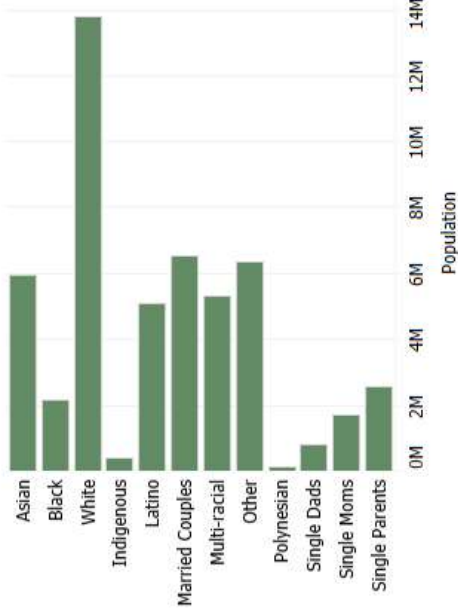
Pearson Correlation Tool

Independent Variable: Energy Affordability Index

Vulnerability Variable: Energy Affordability Index

r = 1.00

Community Characteristics



Population Selected: **39,234,926**

Average Household Size: **3.0**

Average Energy Affordability Index: **50.00**

Average Energy Burden: **2.1%**

Total Energy Affordability Gap: **59,216.8M**

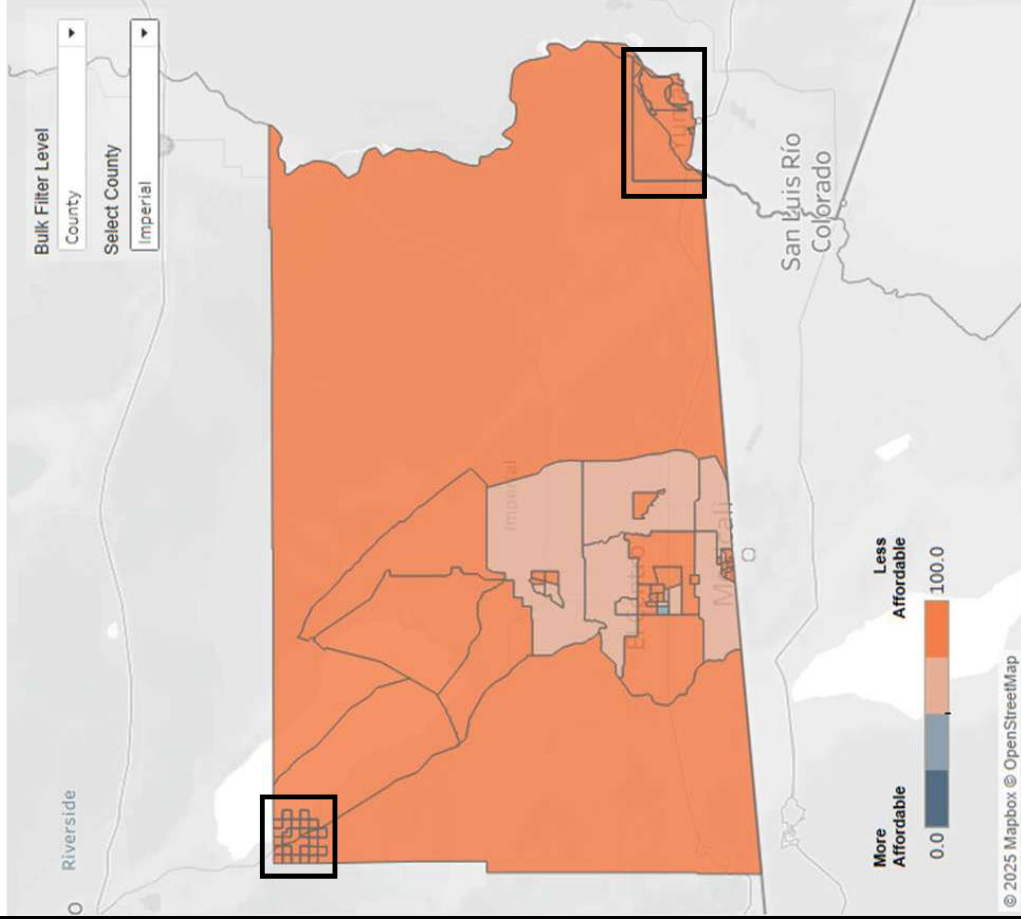
Filters

- Geographic Level:
- Census Tract
 - ZIP Code
 - City
 - County
 - State Assembly District
 - State Senate District
 - Natural Gas Provider
 - Electric Power Provider
- Metric:
- Energy Affordability Index
 - Energy Affordability Gap
 - Energy Burden
- Home Ownership Type:
- Combined
 - Owners
 - Renters
- Energy Affordability Index:
- Show All
 - Filter Top 25%
- SB 535 DACs Filter:
- Show All
 - DACs
- Justice Census Tract Filter:
- Show All
 - Justice Census Tracts



A Deep Dive into Energy Affordability

Energy Affordability Index by Census Tract



Pearson Correlation Tool

Independent Variable: Energy Affordability Index

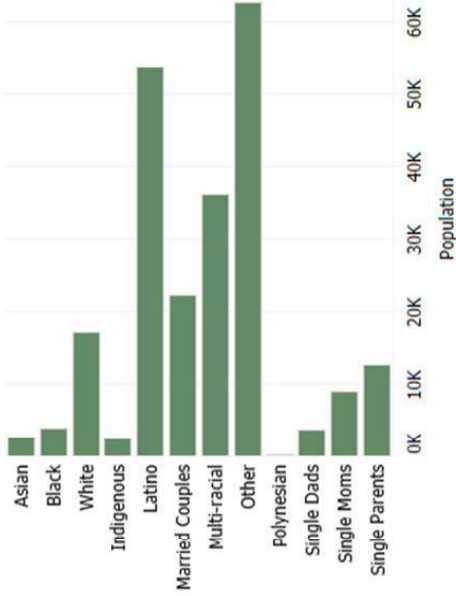
Vulnerability Variable: Energy Affordability Index

r = 1.00

Filters

- Geographic Level:**
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- Show All
 - Filter Top 25%
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- Show All
 - DACs
- Justice Census Tract Filter:**
- Show All
 - Justice Census Tracts

Community Characteristics



Population Selected: **178,682**

Average Household Size: **3.7**

Average Energy Affordability Index: **81.63**

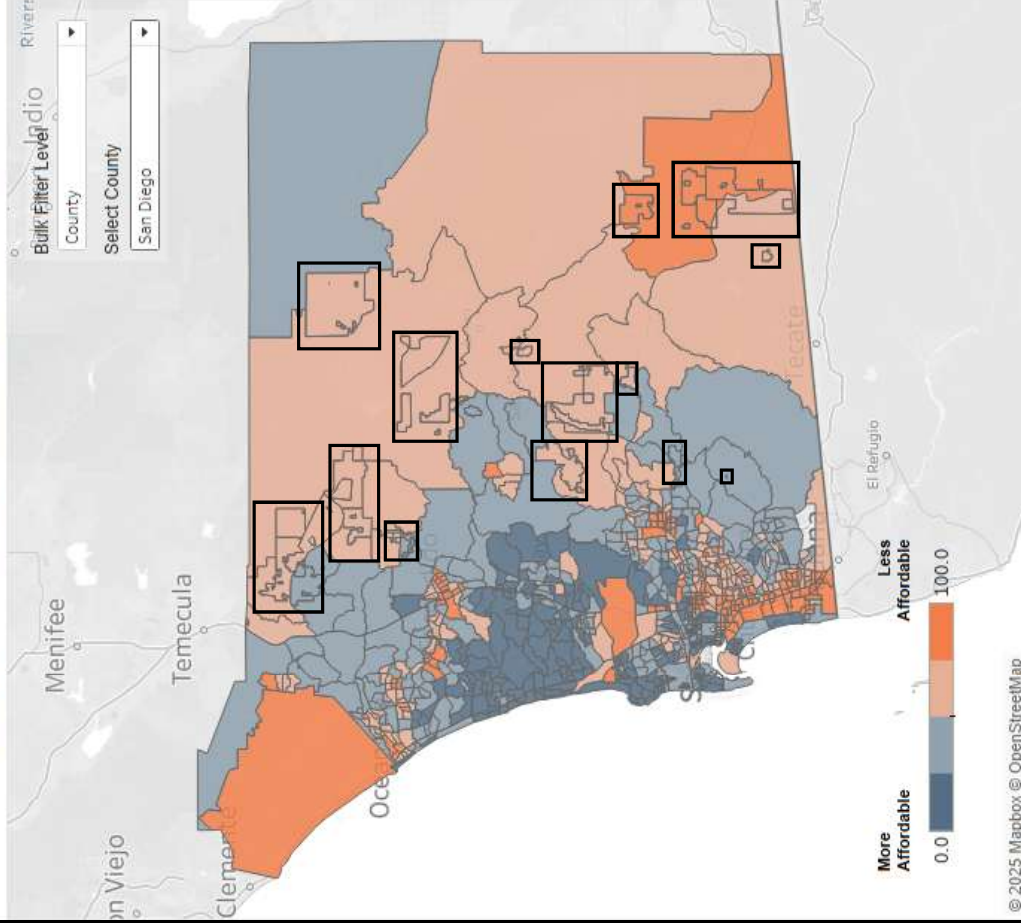
Average Energy Burden: **3.7%**

Total Energy Affordability Gap: **85.0M**



A Deep Dive into Energy Affordability

Energy Affordability Index by Census Tract



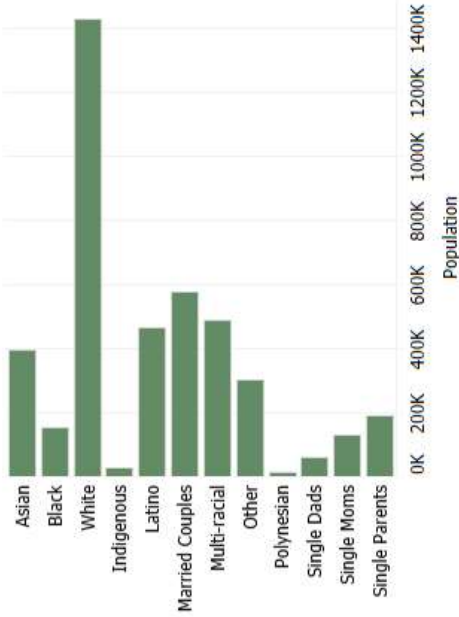
Pearson Correlation Tool

Independent Variable:

Vulnerability Variable:

r = 1.00

Community Characteristics



Population Selected **3,273,354**

Average Energy Affordability Index **46.65**

Average Household Size **2.9**

Average Energy Burden **1.7%**

Total Energy Affordability Gap **7,741.2M**

Filters

- Geographic Level:
- Census Tract
 - ZIP Code
 - City
 - County
 - State Assembly District
 - State Senate District
 - Natural Gas Provider
 - Electric Power Provider
- Metric:
- Energy Affordability Index
 - Energy Affordability Gap
 - Energy Burden
- Home Ownership Type:
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 - Renters
- Energy Affordability Index:
- Show All
 - Filter Top 25%
- SB 535 DACs Filter:
- Show All
 - DACs
- Justice Census Tract Filter:
- Show All
 - Justice Census Tracts



Discussion-Guiding Questions

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

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

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

Thank You!



Quenby Lum, Energy End Use Survey Specialist
Martín Flores, Energy Equity and Energy Modeling Specialist

Group email: EnergyEquityIndicators@energy.ca.gov

Afternoon Break



Improving Energy Project Development Processes

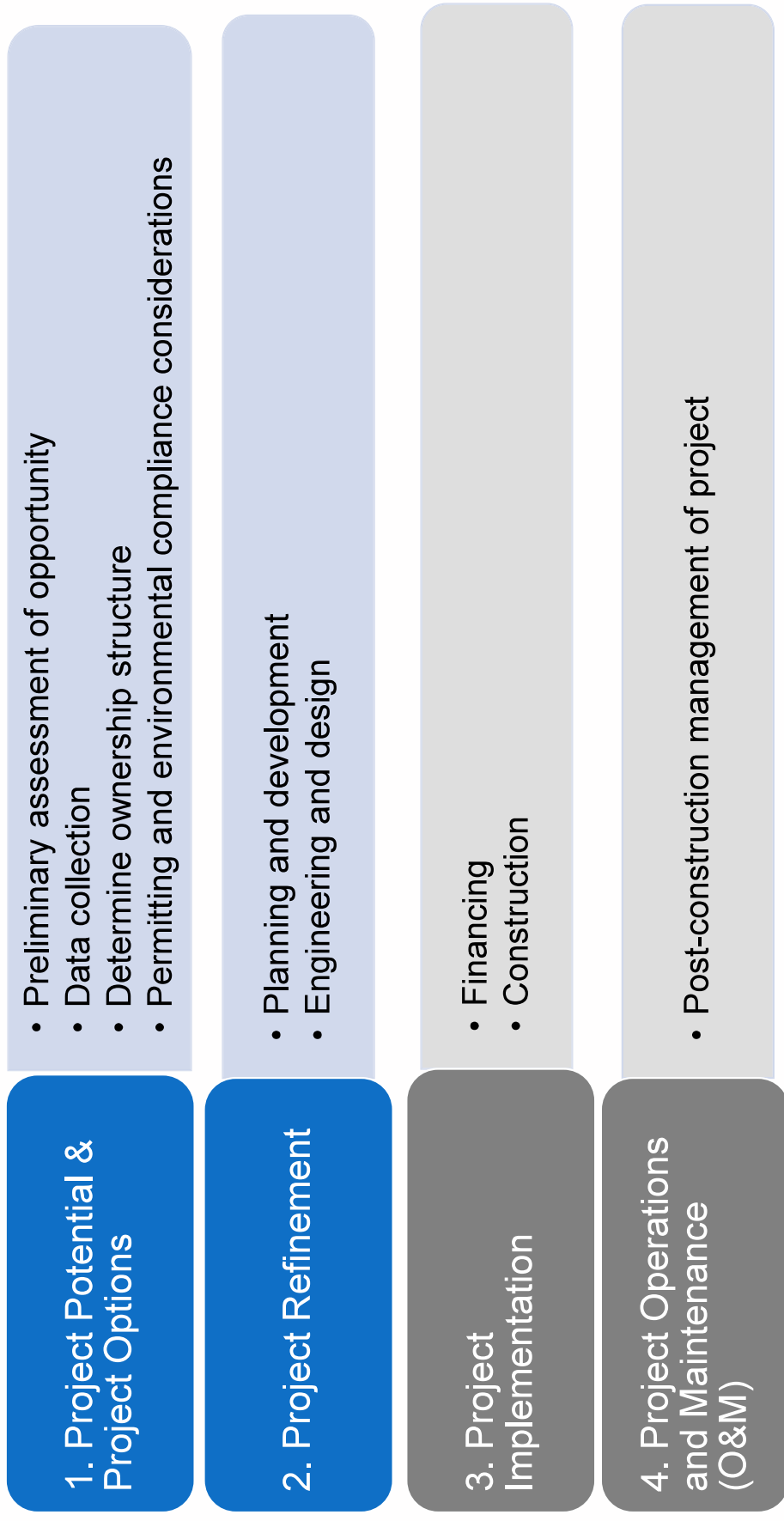
Purpose of Discussion

- Explore potential approaches to improve coordination and consultation on energy related projects
- Identify and strengthen roles for participation in both tribal and non-tribal energy related project development
- Improve consideration of cultural resources on non-tribal land
- Identify non-process issues that impact effective communications and coordination

Example Approaches for Energy Project Development Process

- Project development is iterative
- Unexpected variables may result in changes to a project
- Communication should occur throughout all processes
- Project data transparency and accessibility needed throughout all processes

Project Process Example



1. Project Potential & Options

Determine if basics met for project development and explore roles, ownership structure, and regulatory considerations

- Possible site locations, restrictions, and conflicts
- Feasibility studies
- Need or demand for project or resource
- Understand tribal roles and business structure
- Explore opportunities for tribal partnerships
- Identify permitting other use considerations

Project Potential & Options

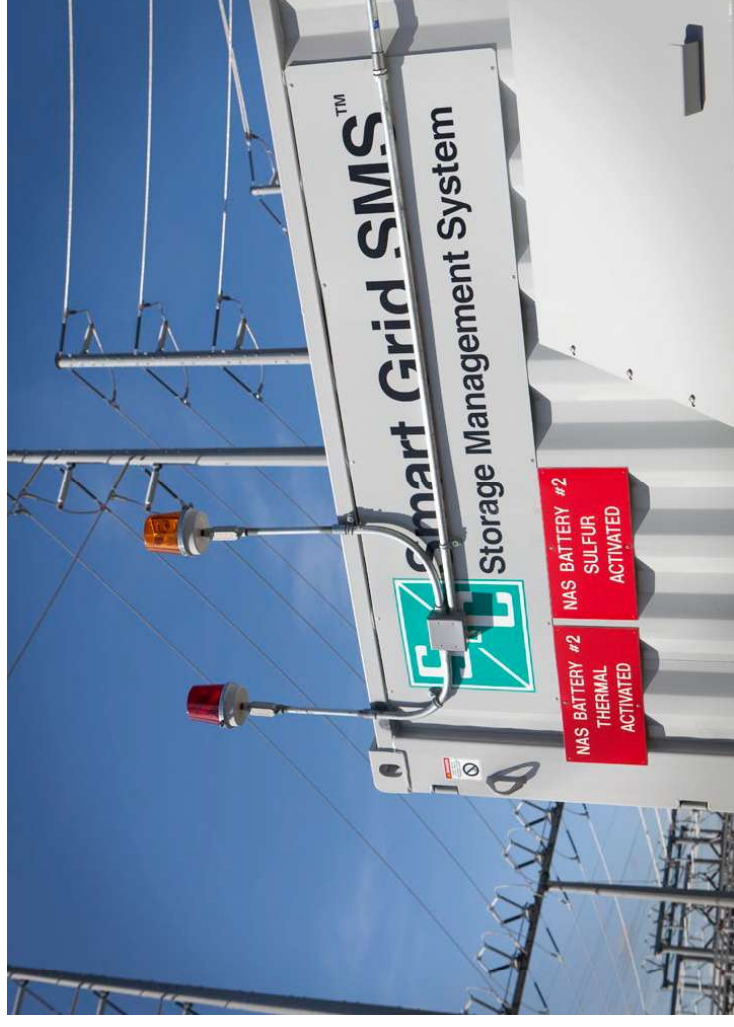
(Co-developed input 3/17/26)

- Determine ways to improve early communication about projects
- Difficult to read through CEQA reports and understand all the components and nuances
- Best practices for CEQA – 60 to 90 days to read and respond. Avoid short timeframes to respond and agency should follow up on submitted comments.
- Communicative documents could include a summary and key points of the CEQA report
- Extend the response timeframe to ensure information can go through various Tribal committees
- Would be helpful to extend response time to 120 days.
- Important to the Tribe to know what the project is and what is the intent; the Tribes want to know what the developer is proposing but not have conversations with developer until later (especially after cultural resources conversations among Tribe)

2. Project Refinement

Finalize project structure and decisions

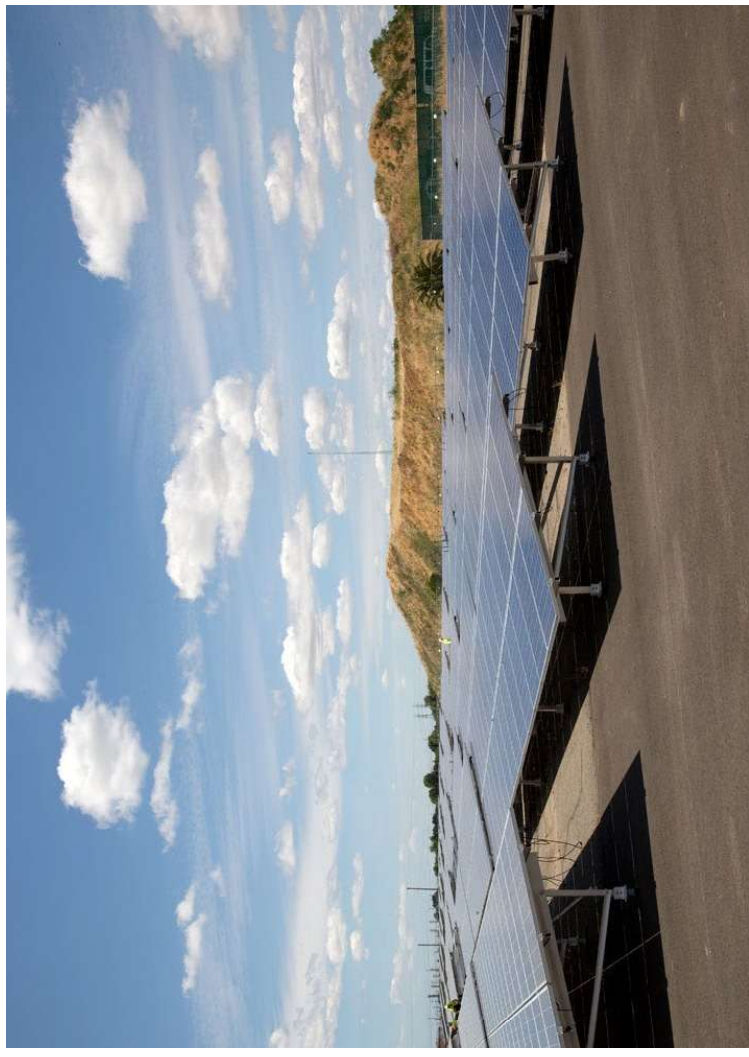
- Finalize ownership structure
i.e. tribal, community, or developer
- Determine regulatory requirements, technology, and costs
- Environmental studies, CEQA, NEPA



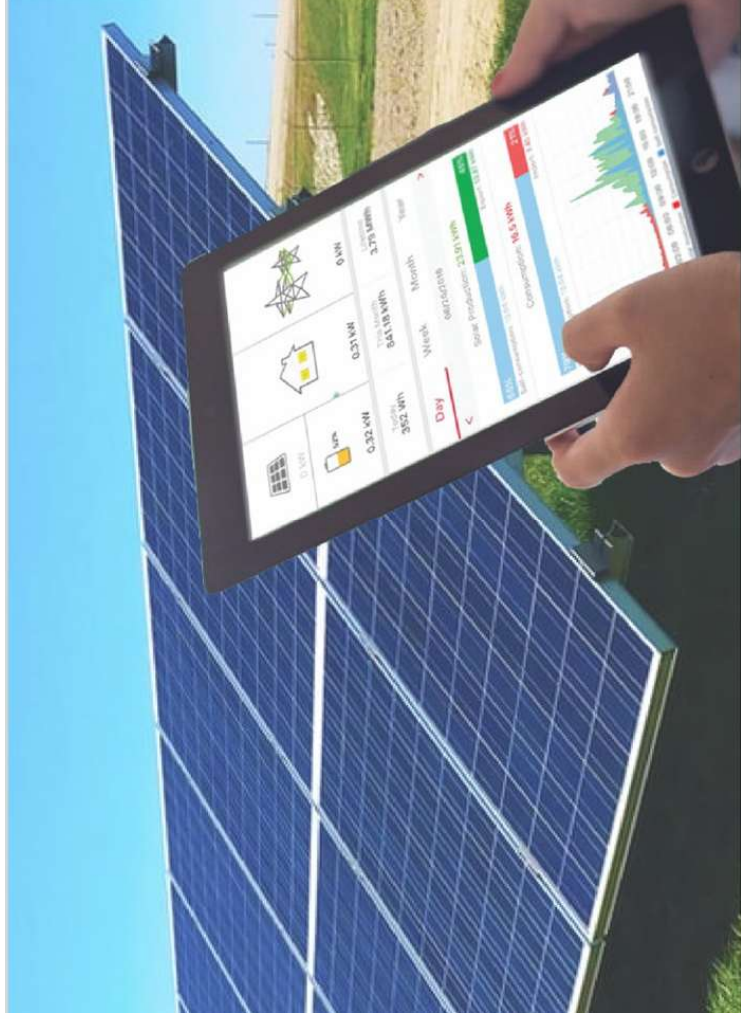
3. Project Implementation

Project contract and construction

- Finalize pre-construction agreements and finances



4. Project O&M



Conduct or ensure ongoing O&M including repair and replacement of items as needed

- Warranties and O&M agreements
- System performance and monitoring

Thank You!

Useful links:

- [DOE reference slides: The Five-Step Process Framework for Project Development](#)
- [Tribal Program | California Energy Commission](#)

Closing Comments

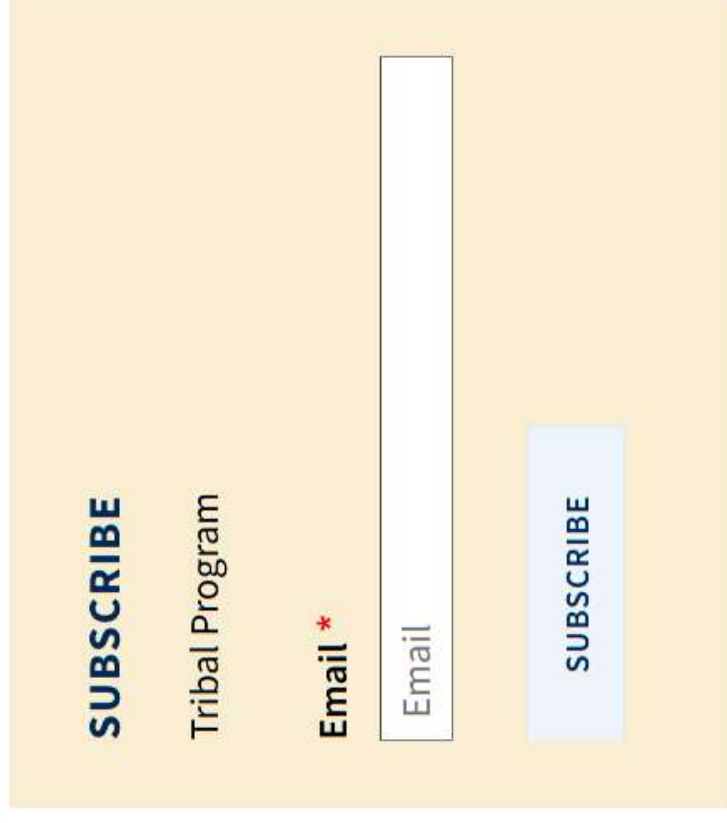


Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- Tribal Set-aside
Equitable Building
Decarbonization
- Electric Program
Investment Charge 5
(EPIC 5)
- Guidelines posted
- Consultation open

Ways to Stay Engaged

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



The image shows a light orange rectangular box containing a subscription form. At the top left, the word "SUBSCRIBE" is written in bold, black, uppercase letters. Below it, the text "Tribal Program" is displayed in a smaller, black font. To the right of this text, the word "Email" is written in bold, black, uppercase letters, followed by a red asterisk (*). Below the asterisk is a white rectangular input field with a thin black border. At the bottom right of the box, there is a light blue rectangular button with the word "SUBSCRIBE" written in bold, black, uppercase letters.

Next OIIP Regional Roundtable: Tomorrow

Information available soon!

THANK YOU!