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2025 Report of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

April 11, 2026

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Purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

The purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), pursuant to Section 400(g) of the California Public Utilities Code, is to advise the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, also known as Senate Bill (SB) 350, in disadvantaged communities. The DACAG will review and advise the CPUC and CEC on policies and programs designed to benefit disadvantaged communities and effectively reach low-income households, small businesses, and hard-to-reach customers (including rural and tribal communities) within disadvantaged communities. Specifically, the DACAG will provide advice on programs related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation electrification, distributed generation and clean energy research and development programs and determine whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

- *Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Charter*

2025 DACAG Members

The DACAG members represent many of the communities that make up California’s richly diverse population, including urban and rural, cultural and ethnic, and geographic diversity as well as a diversity of subject matter expertise. The following members served during 2025, with the table below accounting for term expirations and new appointments, with the conclusion of a term on March 31, 2025.

2024-2025 DACAG Members	2025-2026 DACAG Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fred Beihn ● Abimael Chavez-Hernandez* ● Stephanie Chen ● Senait Forthal* ● Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton (Vice Chair through March 31, 2025) ● Chelsea Kirk ● Elena Krieger, PhD ● Román Partida-López (Chair through March 31, 2025) ● Sarah Sharpe (Secretary)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fred Beihn ● Abimael Chavez-Hernandez ● Senait Forthal ● Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton (Chair) ● Chelsea Kirk ● Elena Krieger, PhD ● Román Partida-López ● Gem Moon Montes* ● Sarah Sharpe (Secretary) ● Councilman Michael Vasquez (Tribal Representative)* ● Chris Walker (Vice Chair)*

*Denotes partial year served, due to term expirations and new appointments.

Background

In early 2018, the CPUC and the CEC jointly approved members of the DACAG that consists of representatives of disadvantaged communities who provide advice about state programs proposed to achieve clean energy and pollution reduction. The creation of the DACAG fulfills a requirement in SB 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015.

The DACAG’s work is guided by its Equity Framework, adopted in 2018 as one of the DACAG’s first formal actions. The Equity Framework was updated by the DACAG in 2024 (Appendix A).

The Framework defines disadvantaged communities for purposes of the DACAG’s scope as including:

- Disadvantaged communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen,
- Tribal lands,
- Census tracts with median incomes at or below 80% of area median income or state

- median income; and
- Households with incomes less than 80% of area median income (AMI).

Both the CPUC and CEC designate lead commissioners to be the primary points of contact for the DACAG at the Commissioner level. During the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 periods, the CEC’s lead Commissioners were Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo, and the CPUC’s lead Commissioners were Darcie Houck and Karen Douglas.

2025 Priorities

Every year, the DACAG adopts priority areas that the agencies are working on to help narrow the scope of the group’s focus. The DACAG members who serve as subject matter experts for these topics are also noted, but there were never more than three members in attendance. For 2025, the following were priority areas:

2024-2025 Priority Areas	DACAG Subject Matter Experts
Affordability & Disconnections	Stephanie Chen, Chelsea Kirk, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez, Senait Forthal, Andres Ramirez, Roger Lin
Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen	Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Stephanie Chen, Chelsea Kirk, Sarah Sharpe
Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC)	Román Partida-López, Senait Forthal, Roger Lin
Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources)	Stephanie Chen, Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Senait Forthal, Roger Lin
Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband)	Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger, Roger Lin
Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation	Román Partida-López, Sarah Sharpe, Senait Forthal , Andres Ramirez
Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation	Curtis Silvers, Julia Hatton, Fred Beihn, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez
Workforce Training and Development	Fred Beihn, Julia Hatton, Curtis Silvers, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez

2025-2026 Priority Areas*	DACAG Subject Matter Experts
Workforce Training & Development	Julia Hatton, Fred Beihn, Senait Forthal, Senait Forthal, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez, Walker
Tribal and Community Engagement & Participation	Julia Hatton, Abimael Chavez-Hernandez, Chris Walker
Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen	Elena Krieger
Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)	Román Partida-Lopez
Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility	Senait Forthal, Elena Krieger
Long-Term Planning; Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation	Román Partida-Lopez, Elena Krieger, Sarah Sharpe
Affordability	Chelsea Kirk
Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen	Chelsea Kirk, Sarah Sharpe

Below is a summary of how many Subject Matter Expert meetings were held at agency request.

Priority Area	SMEs (Months + Titles)	Formal Items (Months + Titles)	Priority Updates (Months + Titles)	Total Months
Affordability & Disconnections	Sep: Appliance Standards	Jun: EE OIR letter; Sep: Base Services Charge; Nov: EJ presentation; Dec: Cost of Capital letter	Jan: Added Disconnections; Feb: Affordability reports; Apr: Income verification; Aug: Updates; Oct: Updates	9
Building/Industrial/ Gas/H ₂	Oct: Gas R&D Program	Jan: CEC Gas R&D; Feb: Building Performance; Apr: SoCalGas & PG&E R&D; Jun: SB 1221; Oct: Energy Code	Sep: Updates; Oct: Updates	6
EPIC	—	Mar: EPIC Strategic Objectives	Oct: EPIC discussed	2
Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility	May: Compass Project in OC	Mar: SCE CEP; May: Summer Reliability; Jul: Solar for All grant; Aug: SCE ESJ RAMP; Nov: EJ presentation	May: SME request; Jun: Updates; Sep: Updates	7
Long-term Planning	Jun: AB 3	Feb: SB 100 & IRP; Jun: AB 205; Jul: AB 3	Jun: Updates; Sep: Updates	5

		Offshore Wind; Nov: Energy Equity Indicators		
Transportation Electrification & ZET	Mar: GO-Biz ZEV Equity; Jun: SB 1000; Dec: Fed Funding for ZEV	Oct: Clean Transportation IP	Jun: Updates; Aug: Updates	5
Tribal & Community Engagement	Jun: Solar for All	Feb: JAEDI; Mar: SCE CEP; May: Tribal Energy OIP	Sep: Updates	5
Workforce Training & Development	—	—	Mar: Updates; Aug: Updates	2

Summaries of 2025 DACAG Actions & Recommendations

Governance Areas for the DACAG

- Officer elections and roles
- Annual report preparation
- Compliance with Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
- LIOB liaison updates
- Voting on letters and formal actions
- Meeting quorum and attendance tracking

Month	Governance Action	Description	Outcome
Jan	Priority Area Revision	Added Disconnections to Affordability	Vote passed
Jun	Letter Vote	EE OIR comment letter	Approved
Jul	Officer Election	Chair and Secretary roles	Approved
Aug	Officer Election	Vice Chair role	Approved
Dec	Letter Vote	Cost of Capital applications	Approved
Dec	Annual Report Prep	Assigned drafting roles	Roles assigned
Dec	Training	Bagley-Keene refresher	Completed

Governance Actions

Summary of Administrative Actions by Month

Month	Key Administrative Actions
Jan	Added Disconnections to Affordability priority area
Mar	EPIC Strategic Objectives presented
Jun	EE OIR letter approved; SB 1221 discussed
Jul	Officer elections (Chair, Secretary)

Aug	Officer election (Vice Chair)
Dec	Cost of Capital letter approved; Annual Report drafting assigned; Bagley-Keene refresher

Summary of Substantive Priority Area Topics Covered by Month

Month	Items	Priority Areas Covered (Count + Names)	Substantive Items
Jan	2	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEC Gas R&D 2. Affordability scope adds Disconnections
Feb	4	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂ ; Long-term Planning; Tribal & Community Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JAEDI 2. Building Performance 3. SB 100 4. IRP 5. Affordability reports
Mar	5	EPIC; Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Tribal & Community Engagement; Workforce Training & Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCE CEP 2. EPIC 3. Workforce updates
Apr	2	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SoCalGas & PG&E R&D 2. Tenant decarb 3. Income verification
May	2	Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Tribal & Community Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tribal Energy OIIP 2. Summer reliability 3. EJ presentation
Jun	5	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂ ; Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Long-term Planning; Transportation Electrification & ZET	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SB 1221 2. AB 205 3. EE OIR letter 4. SB 1000 EV charging 5. Solar for All 6. AB 3
Jul	2	Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Long-term Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar for All grant 2. AB 3 Offshore Wind
Aug	4	Affordability & Disconnections; Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Transportation Electrification & ZET; Workforce Training & Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCE ESJ RAMP 2. Affordability 3. Transportation 4. Workforce
Sep	5	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂ ; Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Long-term Planning; Tribal & Community Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Base Services Charge

			2. Priority updates across multiple areas
Oct	4	Affordability & Disconnections; Building/Industrial/Gas/H ₂ ; EPIC; Transportation Electrification & ZET	1. 2028 Energy Code 2. Clean Transportation IP 3. EPIC 4. Affordability
Nov	3	Affordability & Disconnections; Electric Reliability/Resilience & Load Flexibility; Long-term Planning	1. Energy Equity Indicators 2. EJ presentation
Dec	1	Affordability & Disconnections	1. Cost of Capital letter

Summaries of DACAG Actions or Recommendations Related to Priority Areas

June – DACAG Comment Letter on CPUC Proceeding R.25-04-010

- The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) approved a comment letter in response to the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.25-04-010), which addresses oversight of energy efficiency portfolios, policies, programs, and evaluation.
- In its comments, DACAG emphasized the importance of centering equity in the Commission’s approach and recommended that the DACAG Equity Framework be applied across all proceedings affecting priority communities. This includes not only R.25-04-010, but all CPUC proceedings with equity implications, to ensure consistent, meaningful consideration of disadvantaged and underserved communities in decision-making.

December – DACAG Comment Letter on Utility Cost of Capital Proceedings (2026–2028)

- The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) approved and submitted a comment letter addressing the cost of capital applications for the 2026–2028 cycle filed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (A.25-03-010, A.25-03-011, A.25-03-012, and A.25-03-013). This action falls under DACAG’s Affordability and Disconnections priority area.
- In its comments, DACAG urged the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to carefully consider the affordability impacts of its decisions, particularly for disadvantaged and low-income communities. The group recommended that the Commission evaluate opportunities to lower the authorized return on equity (ROE) and explicitly assess how cost of capital determinations translate into customer bill impacts and overall energy burden.

Appendices

Appendices List

- [Appendix A: Updated DACAG Equity Framework](#)
- [Appendix B: Summary of DACAG Meetings](#)
- [Appendix C: Full Text of Comment Letters Submitted to Commissioners](#)

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Appendix A: Updated DACAG Equity Framework

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Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
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CA DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP (DACAG) EQUITY FRAMEWORK

2024 Update

Table of Contents

- Background
- Guiding Principles
- Purpose
- Definitions
- Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations

Background

California Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, called for the formation of a statewide Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), consisting of members either from or representing disadvantaged communities, to advise the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Its purpose is to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. A Charter was first approved in 2017 (later updated in 2020), and the DACAG held its first meeting in April of 2018.

That same year, the founding members of the DACAG developed an Equity Framework to ensure that equity was placed front-and-center when considering any climate investment/intervention administered by the CEC or CPUC. This 2024 document updates that Framework to reflect six years of learning and guidance through the DACAG process.

Guiding Principles

The following principles, as outlined in the [DACAG Charter](#), guide the DACAG's advisory function:

1. Increase *access* to clean energy technologies for disadvantaged communities
2. Maintain or enhance the *affordability* of energy service in disadvantaged communities by considering potential rate impacts of any proposed program
3. Increase the *benefits* of clean energy programs in disadvantaged communities (e.g., by supporting growth in local employment and small business development, as well as other non-energy benefits, including reducing pollutants and health risks).

Purpose

In alignment with those Principles, this Framework serves several purposes:

- To guide and focus the DACAG as it engages in discussing and commenting on proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC

- To guide agency staff and Commissioners as they determine how to embed and center equity within their efforts
- To prioritize funding and resources for the individuals and communities in California most impacted by climate change, recognizing that they have been underinvested
- To guide proceedings and decision-making processes, particularly those lacking the engagement of individuals and communities most impacted
- To guide agency staff and Commissioners on DACAG’s general position on specific equity-related considerations, including:
 - Non-Energy Benefits
 - Affordability
 - Access, Outreach, and Education
 - Community Engagement
 - Health and Safety
 - Financial Benefits and Economic Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Consumer Protection
 - Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability

If there is a need for additional, more specific feedback beyond the guidance this Framework provides, staff may meet with DACAG Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for their individual perspectives, or bring the topic to the full DACAG for further input and discussion. To support accountability, the DACAG requests the opportunity to learn from staff when and how this Framework and the DACAG’s overall guidance are applied, and any relevant outcomes.

Definitions

Disadvantaged Communities

The term “disadvantaged” as applied to individuals and communities has an inherently negative connotation that ignores the strengths, assets, resources, and resilience of those most impacted by climate change. The DACAG has received and agrees with the significant public comment on the harms associated with the utilization of this term “disadvantaged” which is used in statute to describe this advisory body: Public Utilities Code Section 400(g) states that the agencies shall “establish a disadvantaged community advisory group.” The DACAG is named as such in Section 1.1 of its Charter, and may consider changing its formal name with a revision of the Charter. Until that time, it will continue to be referred to as the DACAG, while encouraging the use of more accurate terminology when it comes to individuals and communities who have been underserved and disinvested. Examples of preferred language include “*priority populations*” or communities, as used by the [CA Air Resources Board](#) (CARB), or “*environmental and social justice (ESJ) communities*”, as established in the CPUC’s [ESJ Action Plan](#), or “*justice communities*”, as defined in the CEC’s [Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#). It’s also important to recognize the diversity of experiences and perspectives within these communities, despite any of these categorizations.

With that said, the DACAG aligns with the [CEC's Energy Equity Indicators](#) tool and uses the following definition of “disadvantaged” (including community residents, workers, and businesses) in its work:

- CalEnviroScreen, as defined by CalEPA,
- Tribal Lands,
- Census tracts where area median income is less than 80% of state median income
- Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

The DACAG also recognizes and supports the utilization of the definition identified in the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan:

- “Disadvantaged Communities,” defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen, along with those that score within the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden, but which do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score,
- All Tribal lands,
- Low-income households (household incomes below 80% of the area median income), and
- Low-income census tracts (census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80% of area or state median income).

Equity

The DACAG recognizes the importance of defining equity to ensure a shared understanding and foundation for all stakeholders involved. We acknowledge that there are many working definitions for equity; however, given that our engagement is primarily focused on energy-related policies and programs, we will focus on defining Energy Equity in alignment with the CEC's [JAEDI](#) Framework:

- “Energy Equity recognizes the historical and cumulative burdens of the energy system borne by Tribes and Justice Communities and by Black, Brown, and Native people in particular. To eliminate these disparities, energy equity centers the voices of Tribes and Justice Communities in energy planning and decision-making and ensures the fair distribution of clean energy benefits and ownership. Energy Equity includes multiple dimensions; the four key dimensions to consider are:
 - **Recognitional Equity:** Recognitional equity aims to identify the communities that have been harmed by the energy system and deserve a larger share of benefits and investments in the future.
 - **Procedural Equity:** Procedural equity aims to implement inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in policies, programs, projects, and operations. Decisions should be informed by those who will be affected by the decisions while recognizing historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics.
 - **Distributional Equity:** Tribes and Justice Communities have not received the complete suite of resources that ensure community success, especially those with the highest need. Resources for the energy system, including funding

allocations, must be distributed strategically to those communities with the highest need first and at a level that will adequately address needs. Distributional equity creates opportunities for people and communities to participate in the energy system supply/value chain, operations, service, and ownership and minimizes potential harm.¹

- Restorative Equity: Restorative equity aims to remedy past harms from the energy system and prevent future harms from occurring.”²

Given the disproportionate environmental and economic impacts of climate change on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the DACAG also offers the following definition of Racial Equity:

- Racial Equity is realized when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.³

Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations

The following topics are of particular importance when prioritizing equity and centering priority communities in the development, implementation, and impacts of programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Each topic includes foundational guidance and considerations for agency staff, decisionmakers, and other stakeholders.

1. *Non-energy benefits (NEBs)*

NEBs represent the array of diverse impacts of energy programs and projects beyond the generation, conservation, and transportation of energy. These include improved health, safety, and comfort to individuals, as well as NEBs that “accrue to society at large,” including local job creation, increased community resilience, improved air quality, and other environmental benefits, such as reduced water use and water quality improvements. Because the failure to consider these latter issues harms society at large, they are also often referred to as social costs. It is imperative to adequately value (either quantitatively or qualitatively) these benefits and costs and integrate them into all resource procurement and investment decisions in all energy programs. Consideration of NEBs and social costs must drive decision-making to avoid disproportionate impacts and maximize community benefits; indeed, California’s [SB 100](#) directs the CEC to “tak[e] into full consideration the economic and environmental costs and benefits of renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.” Many of the Guidance items in this Framework can be considered non-energy benefits or social costs.

2. *Affordability*

¹ Distributional equity also encompasses the reduction of disproportionate harms and environmental health burdens of the existing energy system.

² CEC [Justice Access Equity Diversity Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#), page A-3. February 2023.

³ Curren, Ryan, Julie Nelson, Dwayne S. Marsh, Simran Noor, and Nora Liu. 2016. “[Racial Equity Action Plans: A How-to Manual](#),” page 4. Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. University of California, Berkeley.

The affordability of energy resources is a significant equity issue. Advancements in clean energy and climate infrastructure cannot come at the expense of low-income ratepayers and priority communities; this is an unacceptable tradeoff. As the CPUC recognizes, Californians “need affordable utility services to ensure health, safety, and participation in society,” and offers an [Affordability Ratio Calculator](#) for measuring the affordability of essential utility services. Energy resources are a basic need and must be clean, affordable, *and* accessible to all; we cannot accept tragic tradeoffs that deepen inequity.

3. Access, Outreach, and Education

In order to benefit from climate investments and programs, priority communities need equitable access to them. Providing that access includes removing barriers to participation (i.e., making participation easy); providing and prioritizing targeted, culturally-relevant outreach; offering solutions and interventions *with and for* these communities that address local needs and interests; meeting people where they are; and providing clear, relevant, transparent, and convenient information. Best practices can include things like providing information and services in-language, including American Sign Language (ASL), and through trusted messengers (including paid, local residents); minimizing eligibility requirements and the burden of proof; offering low-or-no-cost services; streamlining multi-lingual, multi-modal application processes across programs; providing information in multiple modalities, including ADA-accessible modalities, and outside of working hours; and offering food, childcare, and/or stipends, as well as access measures such as ASL interpretation, closed captioning, and/or ADA-accessible documents when workshops are required. The [SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-Income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities](#) addresses this topic in detail.

Trusted community-based organizations (CBOs) and educational institutions rooted in priority communities can and should play a significant role in providing access, outreach, and education. Meaningful engagement with these organizations and lifting up their leadership is important, as is funding, training, and other resources to allow them to be effective, build capacity, and be competitive in the market. Marketing, outreach, and education should be appropriately funded and compensated, and additional considerations should be made for outreach to underserved and hard-to-reach populations, which is often more costly.

Finally, priority communities are the experts on their own needs and experiences. While education about available resources may be necessary, knowledge about the impacts of climate change in their daily lives or on the solutions needed are often embedded within the communities themselves. *See also: Community Engagement.*

4. Community Engagement

Community engagement, participation, and leadership are critical to ensure equitable development of programs and policies. While the DACAG can provide guidance and perspectives, community engagement should extend well beyond the DACAG. There are three helpful mantras to remember:

- “Nothing about us without us” - Priority communities should be centered and included in conversations and decisions that involve or impact them.
- “Equity in, equity out” - Processes, programs, and decisions that center equity will result in equitable outcomes, and the reverse is also true.
- Ask: “Who’s most impacted?” - To avoid unintended consequences and ensure that the right individuals and communities are engaged, start by asking who’s most impacted? Who stands to benefit and who might be harmed by any given decision?

Due to the State’s focus on equitable engagement, priority communities are being approached more often, and at times, may be overwhelmed with the many engagement requests. At times, these requests come late in the process with little time for review and meaningful engagement. To avoid putting such pressure on communities, and to ensure authentic and meaningful engagement, agency staff must look to engage with communities early and often, while building community capacity and expertise if needed. Agencies should also be clear on the type of engagement requested. The [Spectrum for Public Participation](#) identifies various levels of engagement, from providing information to empowering communities. Agency staff should be clear with the community on the type of engagement they are looking for, how the engagement is relevant to the community and its interests, if and how their feedback will be incorporated, and how decisions will be made. The engaged parties should be compensated for their time and expertise and a feedback loop should be planned in advance to let communities know where their feedback went and what the impact was. Finally, communities should have the opportunity to lead on solutions and program implementation when those programs impact them directly. *See also: Access, Outreach, and Education.*

5. Health and Safety

Climate change directly threatens the health and safety of individuals and communities, and environmental and social justice communities are hit first and worst. Investments that perpetuate the use of fossil fuels and rely on carbon combustion continue to worsen climate change and have direct, negative human health and safety impacts, threatening the State’s goal of achieving a zero-carbon economy. Appropriately-designed climate and energy policies and programs have the potential to address and mitigate the disproportionate public health impacts of climate change on priority communities and to optimize the health, well-being, energy resiliency, and safety of California’s most vulnerable people. Public health impacts should be identified and evaluated in program design and investment, and health should be considered and valued as a non-energy benefit of climate policies, investments, and programs. Doing so can build resiliency; reduce climate-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths; reduce climate-related healthcare costs; and advance State climate and air quality goals.

6. Financial Benefits and Economic Development

Investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and other climate investments should benefit priority communities directly, providing financial benefits, incentives, and cost savings, maximizing affordability and minimizing rate impacts on those communities. Considerations should also be made to support local, small, BIPOC, and people of underrepresented genders-owned businesses, allowing them to grow and offer sustainable, local employment. In addition,

renters often face barriers to accessing funding opportunities due to their status as non-owners, and so special consideration should be given to support their ability to access programs and resources.

For example, 2016's CA [Assembly Bill 1550](#) directed the CA Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish the following *minimum* funding allocations of California Climate Investments:

- "At least 25 percent of funds must be allocated toward disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within low-income communities or benefiting low-income households
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within and benefiting low-income communities, or low-income households, that are outside of a CalEPA-defined DAC but within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community"

Similarly, [AB 523](#) (Reyes, 2017, sunsetted in 2023 but extended through CPUC decision D. 23-04-042 beyond AB 523 timeline) required *at least* 25% of the CEC's available Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funds for clean energy projects be located in and benefit disadvantaged communities, with an additional 10% to low-income households. [AB 126](#), (Reyes, 2023) requires at least 50% of the moneys appropriated to the program on programs and projects that directly benefit or serve residents of disadvantaged and low-income communities and low-income Californians.

From an equity perspective, public funding should activate resources for the most in-need and most impacted communities. Locating investments within priority communities that don't benefit those communities is counter to the principles of the DACAG and this Framework.

7. Workforce Development

Workforce development refers both to the training and preparation of workers (supply-side), and to the career opportunities available to those workers (demand-side). Climate policies and programs can invest in both by:

- Promoting and funding workforce training pathways and wraparound services, including pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other industry-recognized training programs, to high-quality careers in the construction, climate infrastructure, and clean energy industries
- Providing opportunities to train the next generation of climate leaders and workers for the clean energy economy
- Setting and tracking hiring goals (local, regional, and targeted hire) across career levels for low-income and underrepresented populations who've been locked out of prosperity, to increase access to and representation in the climate workforce
- Including labor standards, such as prevailing wage and industry-appropriate standards beyond wages (benefits, etc.), in publicly-funded programs and contracts

- Prioritizing careers that offer economic mobility and advancement pathways, not just one-off jobs
- Recognizing that utilizing a high-quality, well-compensated workforce ensures quality work, which advances CA's climate goals.
- Prioritize workforce programs that are accessible to underserved communities, emphasizing the need for programs with reduced time commitments and offer services tailored to trainees with limited English proficiency.
- Advocate for workforce programs that specifically support re-entry populations (justice-impacted/formerly incarcerated individuals).

The CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB) offers a strong framework for creating and sustaining quality jobs and careers, referred to as the [High Road](#). Both the CPUC and CEC hold Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the CWDB to align their shared climate goals with workforce development and economic justice:

- [CEC MOU](#)
- [CPUC MOU](#)

Finally, the University of California Berkeley Labor Center's report, [A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030](#), lays out the connection between climate and careers, and how to advance job quality through climate action.

8. Consumer Protection

Climate-related policies and programs should not create incentives for predatory lending or exploitation of communities for financial gain. Programs must have adequate consumer protection measures, disclosures, and accountability measures to ensure that financially-vulnerable customers are not taken advantage of or otherwise compromised.

The CPUC, during the COVID-19 outbreak, established various [consumer protection](#) provisions to protect consumers from potential financial harms during difficult economic times. Agencies and staff should seek to ensure that the type of protections provided during this time are also considered and embedded into energy programs and policies.

9. Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability

Policies and programs must establish metrics to measure their success, gauge efficacy, learn and improve, and determine whether they are delivering equitable outcomes. Metrics should go beyond the investment, program, or resource itself; beyond geographic location; and beyond the intended beneficiary. Evaluation should consider the results of the investment, who contributed, who was impacted and to what extent, and any unintended consequences. Metrics can and should include properly-valued NEBs.

In addition, clear equity requirements, incentives, and metrics should be included from the beginning - again, "put equity in, get equity out" - whether it's in program design, or in a solicitation or scoring process. Progress towards goals should be measured throughout implementation and not just reported upon conclusion. Data collection should be transparent,

easily accessible, and up to date. For the sake of accountability, outcomes should be reported and the significance of meeting, not meeting, or exceeding those outcomes should be clear from the outset.

Appendix B:

Summary of DACAG

Meetings

DRAFT

January 17, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/WK--FW-cHfs>
- Meeting had Quorum: Y
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair: Román
 - Vice Chair*: Julia
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Curtis, Elena, Fred, Julia, Román, Sarah, Senait, and Stephanie.

Meeting Minutes, ITEM 4, December 12, 2024, DACAG meeting minutes.

- Item had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Stephanie
 - Vote: Passed 5. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstentions, and 4 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: CEC Gas Research & Development (R&D) Program. CEC agency staff will present and solicit DACAG feedback for the gas research initiatives proposed for the fiscal year 2025-2026 Gas Research & Development Budget plan.

Presenter Names: Jill Horing, CEC, Aryana Sherzai, CEC

- DACAG Member Discussion:
 - Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Annual Report. CPUC and CEC agency staff will provide an overview of the DACAG annual report process, followed by a DACAG discussion regarding the preparation and timing of the 2024 annual report.

Presenter Names: Dorothy Murimi, CEC and Zara Jamshed, CPUC

- DACAG Member Discussion:
 - Discussion occurred
 - Sarah Sharpe and Julia Hatton will work to create the first draft by February 17, 2025.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding the 2024 DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and possibly adopt revisions to priority areas for 2025, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas: [DACAG 2024 Priority Areas](#)

- DACAG Member Discussion:
 - Discussion occurred. Members voted to add disconnections to the topic of affordability
 - Item had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Sarah Sharpe
 - Member who seconded: Julia Hatton

- Vote: Passed by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 4 member(s) not present during vote

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

- Member Update: No member update noted
- Staff Update: Jenn Gordon liaison for LIOB for CPUC
- DACAG Member Discussion:
 - Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- CEC JAEDI
- Solar For All
- IRP
- Low Income programs

February 21, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording:
https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/2uxG1gXWbFzDp1MzXF5pjxiSh685UI2msSfiDgXhsvSQ0pZcO5m_xVru6tvK2-GPop9ydeP-s_fbTL2N.BHZ7HIG8I5jlorxG
- Meeting had Quorum: Y
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
 - *starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair: Román
 - Vice Chair*: Julia
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Curtis, Elena, Fred, Julia, Román, Sarah, Senait, and Stephanie.

Meeting Minutes

- Item had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Stephanie
 - Member who seconded: Elena
 - Vote: Passed by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 4 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: CEC Justice Access Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JAEDI) proceeding. The office of CEC Commissioner Gallardo will present and solicit feedback on CEC’s Justice Access Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JAEDI) informational proceeding and the JAEDI action plan.

Presenter Names: Aretha Welsh (Special Advisor to Commissioner Gallardo)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: CEC Building Performance Strategy Report. CEC staff will present and solicit feedback on the Draft California Building Performance Strategies Report and Recommendations and Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan.

Presenter Names: Elicia Yoffee (CEC)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: Senate Bill 100. The CPUC, CEC and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are jointly developing the 2025 Senate Bill (SB) 100 Joint Agencies Report. CEC and CARB will present an overview of the SB 100 Report and the CARB Scoping Plan which drives the decarbonization requirement set by SB 100 whose goal is powering all retail electricity sold in the state with renewable and zero-carbon sources by 2045.

Presenter Names: Jacqueline Jones, CEC and Stephanie Kato, CARB

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Preferred System Plan (PSP). CPUC staff will present on the CPUC IRP process including the PSP and interplay with SB 100.

Presenter Names: Brendan Burns, CPUC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 10

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG 2024 Annual Report. DACAG member(s) will provide an overview of the draft DACAG discussion seeking feedback from all members.

Presenter Names: Sarah Sharpe, DACAG Secretary

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 11

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and possibly adopt revisions to the 2024 priority areas in 2025, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.
 - Excerpt: “Affordability: Reports from both agencies were published. Member discussion occurred.”

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 12

Member Update: No report

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 14

- SB 100 Non-energy Impacts
- Governor’s EO on Affordability

March 21, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm5sbvHZ9WU>
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
 - *starred individual facilitated meeting:

- Chair: Román
- Vice Chair*: Julia
- Secretary: Sarah
- Abimael, Chelsea, Curtis, Elena, Fred, Julia, Román, Sarah, Senait, and Stephanie.

Meeting Minutes

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Stephanie
 - Member who seconded: Curtis
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 7. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: Southern California Edison (SCE) Community Engagement Plan (CEP) informing its Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment (CAVA). SCE will present on and will seek feedback from the DACAG on its May 2025 CEP submission to the CPUC to guide equity considerations in its CAVA, which is intended to identify long-term risks related to its utility infrastructure and assets as impacted by climate change.

Presenter Names: Stephen Torres, SCE

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: CPUC Energy Division Staff Proposal Identifying Strategic Objectives and Criteria for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program. CPUC staff will present on and will seek feedback on its proposal identifying Strategic Objectives for the ratepayer-funded EPIC program, which supports the development of new, emerging, and pre-commercial clean energy innovations in California.

Presenter Names: Fred Beck, CPUC

- Public Comment: Yes (“Jason Zhang, Richard Estevez”)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, action not taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8 – Item deferred

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG 2024 Annual Report. DACAG Member(s) will present the draft DACAG 2024 Annual Report for discussion and possible approval and designate DACAG member(s) to present the DACAG 2024 Annual Report at future CPUC and CEC business meetings.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

- Excerpt: “Updates were shared under Workforce Training and Development.”

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

Member Update: No update.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion or action.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Solar for All
- SB 100 and non-energy impacts (NEIs) (June)
- Tribal energy sovereignty
- Impacts or expected impacts from the Governor’s 2024 Executive Order on energy affordability
- Open call for member presentations

April 18, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording:
https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/x3y1m9xVtYiMwSk4kE4nnFDn8FYjuzDmwTURhm1x-PI_3hT_5sstowkgaZqs7_W0PDeJg6YtuOyiX68K.OjQqfxzI69k_vkBm
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair: Román
 - Vice Chair: Julia
 - Secretary*: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Elena, Fred, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Meeting Minutes

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Fred
 - Member who seconded: Senait
 - Vote: Passed 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) 2024 and 2025 Gas Research and Development (R&D) Investment Plans. SoCalGas will present and seek feedback from the DACAG on its proposed 2024 and 2025 Gas R&D Investment Plans to be submitted to the CPUC by June 1.

Presenter Names: SoCalGas: Armando Infanzon, Mike Morgando, Matt Gregori, Siari Sosa.

Public Comment: Briana Ancona

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) 2024 and 2025 Gas R&D Investment Plans. PG&E will present and seek feedback from the DACAG on its proposed 2024 and 2025 Gas R&D Investment Plans to be submitted to the CPUC by June 1.

Presenter Names: David Xu, Monique Montague, Stephen Ramo, Jeannette Lindemann.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Member Presentation. Decarbonizing California Equitably: A Tenant-Center Approach to Decarbonization presented by DACAG member Chelsea Kirk.

Presenter Names: Chelsea Kirk, DACAG Member

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG 2024 Annual Report. DACAG Member(s) will present the draft DACAG 2024 Annual Report for discussion and possible approval and designate DACAG member(s) to present the DACAG 2024 Annual Report at future CPUC and CEC business meetings.

Presenter Names: Sarah Sharpe, DACAG Secretary.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, action taken.
- Item had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Chelsea
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred.
- Excerpt: “Affordability and Disconnections: Senait Forthal has attended an income verification process working group meeting.”

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11

Member Update: No member report.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion, no action.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 13

- Update on AB 205 Opt-In Certification Program and process.
- Pending legislation and consideration of action by DACAG.
- [AB 306](#) (Halting building standards for 3 years.)
- Update on [SB 1221](#) implementation.
- Update on the zonal electrification pilot project

May 16, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZoCUCligsl>
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair*: Román
 - Vice Chair: Julia
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Meeting Minutes ITEM 4, Meeting Minutes. Possible approval of April 18, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes.

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Sarah
 - Vote: Passed. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 4 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: New DACAG Members. Introduction and meet and greet with any newly appointed DACAG members.

New Members:

- Chris Walker, GRID Alternatives
- Gem Moon Montes, People's Collective for Environmental Justice

DACAG Member Discussion:

- New members welcomed.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: Tribal Energy Proceeding. CEC will present on 25-OIIP-01, a new Order Instituting Informational Proceeding (OIIP) on Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty to inform the CEC's tribal affairs work, including work supporting tribal energy sovereignty.

Presenter Names: Sierra Graves, Director of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Liaison, CEC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: Summer Reliability. CEC staff will provide a summer energy reliability overview including anticipated summer weather and fire conditions, projected new clean energy resources, and an update on anticipated system reliability conditions.

Presenter Names: Liz Gill, Reliability Analysis Branch Manager, CEC

Public Comment: *Natalie Delgado, Central California Environmental Justice Network*

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Member Presentation: DACAG member Sarah Sharpe will present “A Just Transition for Asthma Prevention,” highlighting the connections between energy justice and public health advocacy in Central California.

Presenter Names: Sarah Sharpe, DACAG Secretary

Public Comment:

- Judith Ikle - CPUC
- Elisa Correa

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.
- Excerpt: “Request an SME meeting with Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility with addition of Chris Walker to that SME group to discuss the public comments on Darden Solar project.”

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11

Member Update: No report.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion, no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Excerpt: “*Member presentations?*”

June 13, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording:
<https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/m7DS1qXb7qDd7ylKWJAAonDAemToB333tVmumkhodFKtyQ1ghOo3-rZrAOhhvOEau81hXayHQqDC0Y1-.GP7hje1H7EJ7m7F>
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes – for part of the meeting
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair: Román
 - Vice Chair: Julia
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Meeting Minutes, ITEM 4, Previous Month’s meeting minutes. May 23, 2025. – Item Deferred

- Item had vote: No

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: Senate Bill (SB) 1221 (Min, 2024) Implementation. CPUC staff to present on the status of SB 1221 implementation. This bill directs the CPUC to designate priority neighborhood decarbonization zones and to create a program for up to 30 neighborhood decarbonization zone pilot projects for gas decommissioning.

Presenter Names: Eileen Hlavka (CPUC)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: CEC Opt-In Certification Program. CEC staff to present an update on the Assembly Bill 205 (2022) [Opt-In Certification Program](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program) (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/power-plants/opt-certification-program>) relating to permitting for renewable energy facilities followed by DACAG discussion.

Presenter Names: Kaycee Chang, CEC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Comment letter on CPUC proceeding R.25-04-010. Possible approval of a draft DACAG comment letter relating to the CPUC's Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs, and Evaluation (R.25-04-010). The draft DACAG letter recommends the CPUC include the latest DACAG Equity Framework in the scope of the rulemaking proceeding.

Presenter Names: Julia Hatton, DACAG Vice Chair.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred.
- Item had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Senait
 - Member who seconded: Sarah
 - Vote: Passed by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 4 member(s) not present during vote

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, no action taken.
- Excerpts:
 - Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation
 - **Senait Forthal** reported on an SB 1000 meeting, suggesting a stronger focus on installing EV chargers directly *at* multi-family homes rather than nearby.
 - Electricity Reliability, Resiliency and Load Flexibility, (Distributed Energy Resources)

Presenter Names: Sarah Lerhaupt, CPUC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: Assembly Bill (AB) 3 (Zbur, Chapter 314, Statutes of 2023), Offshore Wind Reports. CEC staff will present an overview of AB 3 including describing the public process and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Presenter Names: Elizabeth Barminski, CEC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Officers. The DACAG may discuss, nominate, and vote to appoint DACAG officers, including for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred, members self-nominated and were nominated.
- Item 9A. Secretary – Sarah Sharpe – had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned: Sarah
 - Member who seconded: Chris
 - Vote: Passed by 7. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 3 member(s) not present during vote
- Item 9B. Vice Chair – N/A – had vote: N - Deferred
- Item 9C. Chair – Julia Hatton – had vote: Y
 - Member who motioned:
 - Member who seconded:
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 7. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 3 member(s) not present during vote

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 10

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt: “Julia to present to CPUC and CEC on 2024 Annual Report and updated Equity Framework, including presenting all priority areas.”

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 11

Member Update: Unknown

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 13

- Stephanie Chen recognition
- Revisit Vice Chair

- Updates on Implications of One Big Beautiful Bill Act for clean energy goals in California

August 15, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording: <https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/jJHn9hM5bwIciHWtVtQwkCAjSq-aA2dyUAev4xzwvgKe-62WtSKHsiDxr-ZSTUIXK36SKcpQdXgLVSw2.rrihZGJ4j0SrHVi>
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
 - *starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair*: Julia
 - Vice Chair:
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 4

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG members will give remarks thanking departing DACAG member Stephanie Chen for her service.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Item:
 - Julia Hatton led conversation.
 - Stephanie Chen provided remarks
 - Members who provided remarks: Fred Beihn, Senait Forthal
 - Commissioners and staff who provided remarks: Commissioner Douglas, Jane Park, Chief of Staff, Office of Vice Chair Gunda, Judith Ikle, CPUC.

Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes. Possible approval of the July 18, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes – Deferred

- Item had vote: No
 - No quorum during item.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Pilot Study Plan for Risk Assessment Mitigation Phase (RAMP). In accordance with Decision (D.)22-12-027, Southern California Edison (SCE) will present and solicit feedback from the DACAG on its proposed Pilot to incorporate equity into a risk-based decision-making framework for SCE’s 2026 RAMP filings in CPUC Rulemaking (R.)20-07-013.

Presenter Names: Seema Sutarwala Turner, SCE

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Officers. The DACAG may discuss, nominate, and vote to appoint a DACAG Vice Chair.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred.
- Item 8. Vice Chair – Chris Walker – had vote: Y

- Member who motioned: Unknown
- Member who seconded: Unknown
- Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 4 abstentions, and W member(s) not present during vote

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
 - Excerpt:
 - 1 - Affordability & Disconnections.
 - 6 - Transportation Electrification and Zero Emission Transportation.
 - 8 - Workforce Training and Development

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

Member Update: No update.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- No discussion was had; no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Federal legislative impacts on CEC and CPUC's work
- Active proceedings and anticipated proceedings in 2026
- Update from CPUC or Utilities on income-graduated fixed charges.

September 19, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/7kjLvX6030I?si=yQpxcUjAQIyhnES7>
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
 - *starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair*: Julia
 - Vice Chair: Chris
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes. Possible approval of July 18, 2025, and August 15, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes.

- ITEM 4a. - July 18, 2025, meeting minutes had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Sarah
 - Member who seconded: Elena
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote
- ITEM 4b. - August 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes had vote: Yes/No
 - Member who motioned: Sarah
 - Member who seconded: Senait

- Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions, and 2 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: Base Services Charge. CPUC staff will provide an update on the Base Services Charge (formerly known as the income-graduated fixed charge), which is a fixed monthly charge, based on income tiers, that lowers usage-based electricity rates for all residential customers, including California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) households.

Presenter Names: Ankit Jain and Cheryl Wynn, CPUC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Meeting Engagement and Attendance. DACAG officers to lead discussion on DACAG member attendance and meeting engagement.

Presenter Names: Chris Walker, DACAG Vice Chair

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Area Metrics. DACAG officers to lead discussion regarding key performance indicators for each priority area and strategies for achieving metrics goals for each priority.

Presenter Names: Chris Walker, DACAG Vice Chair

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Area Updates. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Excerpt:
 - Priority Areas Discussed:
 - Building, Industrial, Gas System Decarbonization, and Clean Renewable Hydrogen.
 - Electricity Reliability, Resiliency, and Load Flexibility (Including Distribution and Transmission Grid Planning and Distributed Energy Resources).
 - Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR, Offshore Wind, Lithium Valley Vision, Long-term Natural Gas, Smart Grids and Broadband).
 - Tribal and Community Engagement and Participation.

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

Member Update: No member update

Staff Update: LIOB 3rd Quarterly Meeting - Jen Gordon, CPUC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Requested members to send any additional items not discussed during the meeting to staff

October 17, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording:
https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/DfnJbJyzJW8B6uMzpQ5qiqhfN2qMaKFEtFqxLx4NOCzsS3j-TwX_grnZMtiQr1lXfPrjs3MTNrxbTlg.--POnyb6N_o6xBn
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair*: Julia
 - Vice Chair: Chris
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes. September 19, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes.

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Chris
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 7. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 3 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 5

Presentation/Discussion Title: 2028 California Energy Code. CEC staff will present an update on the 2028 California Energy Code, including impacts of Assembly Bill 130 on updates for residential buildings, and solicit feedback on the themes under development for nonresidential buildings. The Energy Code mandates energy-saving features in new construction and renovations to reduce energy waste, costs, and carbon emissions.

Presenter Names: Gypsy Achong, Building Standards Branch Manager.

Public Comment:

- Excerpt:
 - *Norma Rodriguez*
 - *Danielle Hughes, Tahoe Sparks*
 - *CEC Commissioner Skinner*
 - *CEC Commissioner McAllister*
 - *Nica Tanaca - California Energy Alliance*

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan Update. CEC staff will present the draft 2025–2026 Clean Transportation Investment Plan Update, highlighting proposed funding allocations and priorities to accelerate California’s transition to zero-emission vehicles; DACAG may discuss, and provide feedback.

Presenter Names: Mabel Aceves Lopez, Assistant Project Manager, Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan, CEC. Benjamin Tuggy, Project Manager, Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan.

Public Comment

8. Erin Allese, CalStart
Bradley Cleveland, IBEW

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements related to current priority areas and associated activities. The group may discuss and revise items pertaining to the 2025 priority areas, including identifying relevant subject matter experts. Members may also begin preliminary discussions on potential priority areas for 2026.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.
- Priority Areas Discussed:
 - Building Decarbonization
 - EPIC
 - Gas R&D
 - Affordability and Disconnections

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 9

Member Update: No update made.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 11

- Note requested future agenda topics if listed.

General public comment. ITEM 12

- Public Comment
 - Chris Losi, Flowra, Trinity County
 - Danielle Hughes, Tahoe Sparks
 - Erich Fleck, The Ortiz Group

November 21, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/ufF0FeHi1bM?si=XNoDLIaqPxHm_egb
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:

- Chair: Julia
- Vice Chair: Chris
- Secretary: Sarah
- Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, and Senait.

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 2 – New Member – ITEM deferred

Public Comment, ITEM 3

- Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity

Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes.

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Fred
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and 5 member(s) not present during vote

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 6

Presentation/Discussion Title: Energy Equity Indicators. Relating to the DACAG’s Long-Term Planning Priority Area, CEC staff will present on the CEC’s Energy Equity Indicators project. CEC will solicit feedback on the project, including future phases and DACAG engagement.

Presenter Names: Martin Flores, CEC

Public Comment: Tom Phillips, CDPH guest researcher

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Member Presentation. Relating to the DACAG’s Affordability and Disconnections, Electricity Reliability, and Long-Term Planning Priority Areas, DACAG Member Gem Montes will present “Spotlight on Inland Empire EJ Communities” highlighting the challenges of daily life for frontline communities and advocates in the Inland Empire.

Presenter Names: Gem Moon Montes, DACAG Member

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Area Updates. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and revise items related to the 2025 priority areas, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

Presentation/Discussion Title: Recharging the DACAG

Name/Affiliation of Presenters: Chris Walker, Vice Chair

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

Member Update: No member update, no discussion and no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Possible Agenda Items
 - Priority Areas
 - Cost of Capital proceeding letter

December 12, 2025, DACAG Meeting

- Meeting Recording:
https://energy.zoom.us/rec/play/gliFGkUTXxD0Cs0RkvjrmoNAbn7jWZe1AKUEb-hDF-Onr52loACRmTxzbW2VpT5EYEGmCZ1k9VNEcI43.4CyuyQVnmVWhum_U
- Meeting had Quorum: Yes
- Membership for the month (individuals who were members of the DACAG during this month)
*starred individual facilitated meeting:
 - Chair: Julia
 - Vice Chair*: Chris
 - Secretary: Sarah
 - Abimael, Chelsea, Chris, Elena, Fred, Gem, Julia, Román, Sarah, Senait, and Councilman Vasquez.

Special Item from Agenda, ITEM 2

Presentation/Discussion Title: New DACAG Members. Introduction and meet and greet with any newly appointed DACAG members.

Tribal Councilman Michael Vasquez, Pechanga Band of Indians

Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Substantive Item from Agenda, ITEM 3

Presentation/Discussion Title: DACAG Comment Letter. Relating to the DACAG's Affordability and Disconnections priority area. Possible approval of a draft DACAG comment letter relating to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company cost of capital applications for the 2026 to 2028 cycle, A.25-03-010, A.25-03-011, A.25-03-012, and A.25-03-013.

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred.
- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Sarah
 - Member who seconded: Julia
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 7. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstentions, and 3 member(s) not present during vote

Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2025, DACAG meeting minutes.

- Item had vote: Yes
 - Member who motioned: Elena
 - Member who seconded: Sarah
 - Vote: Passed/did not pass by 6. 6 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions, and 3 member(s) not present during vote

Administrative Item from Agenda, ITEM 7

Presentation/Discussion Title: 2025 DACAG Annual Report Preparation. CEC and CPUC staff will present a briefing on the procedures for the 2025 DACAG Annual Report followed by member discussion with a designation of a member to lead in drafting the report and presenting the report to the CPUC and CEC.

Presenters: Zara Jamshed, CPUC and Dorothy Murimi, CEC

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred. Chris Walker volunteered to work with Sarah Sharpe to draft the report. Elena Krieger is available to review.

Administrative Item from Agenda, ITEM 8

Presentation/Discussion Title: Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Refresher. CEC and CPUC legal staff will give an overview to the DACAG on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Presenters: CEC and CPUC legal support to DACAG Reneé Webster-Hawkins, and Jason Reiger

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Discussion of DACAG Priority Areas, ITEM 9

Presentation/Discussion Title: Priority Areas. DACAG members to provide updates and announcements regarding DACAG priority areas and associated activities. Members may discuss and possibly adopt revisions to the priority areas for 2026, including the identification of subject matter experts.

Priority Areas (Link priority areas used): [2025 Priority Areas](#)

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Discussion occurred; no action was taken.

Report regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB), if applicable, ITEM 10

Member Update: No update, no discussion and no action was taken.

Desired future agenda topics, ITEM 12

- Possible Agenda Items
 - Disconnections Update
 - SB 1221- Zonal Decarbonization pilots
 - Wildfire Rate Impacts overview
 - Infrastructure in DACs, maintenance to protect DACs
 - Data Center impacts- IEPR will include in energy demand forecasting

General public comment, ITEM 13

- Allie Shields, Thermostat Care

Appendix C: Full Text of DACAG Letters to Commissioners

June 13, 2025

**FILED**

06/24/25

02:57 PM

R2504010

President Reynolds and Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC),
 Energy Division
 505 Van Ness Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94102

CC:

Chair Hochschild and Members of the Commission
 California Energy Commission (CEC)
 715 P Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments of the California Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) on R.25.04.010, *Order Instituting Rulemaking for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs and Evaluation*

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioners of the CPUC,

The CA Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) hereby submits these comments on R.25.04.010, *Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs and Evaluation*, filed by the Commission on April 24, 2025. The DACAG serves as an advisory body to the California Public Utilities Commission and to the CA Energy Commission regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of relevant clean energy programs and policies on priority environmental and social justice communities throughout California.¹ The OIR establishes “the forum for regulatory issues related to the ongoing oversight and administration of energy efficiency programs by the Commission,” with the new Rulemaking serving as “the primary venue for all issues relating to the energy efficiency policies, programs, and evaluation efforts for oversight of the portfolio administrators conducting and implementing energy efficiency programs under the Commission’s jurisdiction” and as “the successor proceeding to Rulemaking 13-11-005, which was closed in January 2025.” While not a party to this proceeding or designated respondent,² the DACAG respectfully responds to the OIR’s request for comments on “the preliminary scope of issues and schedule identified in this rulemaking.”³

¹ Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group>

² R.25.04.010, *Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs and Evaluation*, p.16

³ Ibid, p.1

The DACAG recommends that the Commission consider the DACAG Equity Framework in all proceedings impacting and/or involving priority communities and all proceedings with equity considerations, including R.25.04.010. The Commission has set a strong precedent for considering Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) issues in all relevant proceedings as determined by the assigned Commissioner and guided by the Commission’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan. The Commission should similarly consider equity issues in its proceedings, guided by the CA Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group’s Equity Framework, which can be found on the CPUC’s website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/2024-dacag-equity-framework.pdf> and which is also included in these comments as an Appendix.

Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, called for the formation of a statewide Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), consisting of members either from or representing disadvantaged communities, to advise the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies, in order to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs, including energy efficiency. In 2018, the founding members of the DACAG developed an Equity Framework to ensure that equity was placed front-and-center when considering any climate investment/intervention administered by the CEC or CPUC. The Framework was referenced in and informed the original CPUC ESJ Action Plan. The Framework was updated in 2024.

The DACAG holds a monthly public meeting with Commissioners and staff from both agencies to provide feedback and guidance aligned with the DACAG Equity Framework on proposed and existing programs. We’ve frequently discussed the value of having equity considerations scoped into CPUC proceedings prior to program implementation, particularly when the communities most impacted by a proceeding are unable to participate, to better ensure equity objectives are met. While the Equity Framework is publicly available, its use is not consistent or operationalized in CPUC proceedings. Similarly, it has proven challenging to make the DACAG’s guidance part of the public record. Formalizing consideration of the DACAG Equity Framework in R.25.04.010 could support these objectives.

The DACAG Equity Framework is particularly relevant to R.25.04.010 because the CPUC’s energy efficiency portfolio includes equity-focused programs per D.21-05-031, which orders energy efficiency program administrators to segment their programs into three categories as defined by the Decision: resource acquisition, market support, and equity.⁴

In summary, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group appreciates the Commission’s commitment to delivering the benefits of energy efficiency to hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities throughout the State of California and offers the DACAG Equity Framework as one tool to support and operationalize that commitment in R.25.04.010. We thank you for your consideration and collaboration of our comments and this Framework.

Date: June 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

The Members of the CA Disadvantaged
Communities Advisory Group

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group>

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/campaigns/equity-and-diversity/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group-dacag>

⁴ D.21-05-031, *Assessment of Energy Efficiency Potential and Goals and Modification of Portfolio Approval and Oversight Process*, p.81

APPENDIX

The DACAG Equity Framework can be found online at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/2024-dacag-equity-framework.pdf> and is provided in full below.

CA DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP (DACAG) EQUITY FRAMEWORK

2024 Update

Table of Contents

- Background
- Guiding Principles
- Purpose
- Definitions
- Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations

Background

California Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, called for the formation of a statewide Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), consisting of members either from or representing disadvantaged communities, to advise the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Its purpose is to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including Tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. A Charter was first approved in 2017 (later updated in 2020), and the DACAG held its first meeting in April of 2018. That same year, the founding members of the DACAG developed an Equity Framework to ensure that equity was placed front-and-center when considering any climate investment/intervention administered by the CEC or CPUC. This 2024 document updates that Framework to reflect six years of learning and guidance through the DACAG process.

Guiding Principles

The following principles, as outlined in the DACAG Charter, guide the DACAG's advisory function:

1. Increase access to clean energy technologies for disadvantaged communities
2. Maintain or enhance the affordability of energy service in disadvantaged communities by considering potential rate impacts of any proposed program
3. Increase the benefits of clean energy programs in disadvantaged communities (e.g., by supporting growth in local employment and small business development, as well as other non-energy benefits, including reducing pollutants and health risks).

Purpose

In alignment with those Principles, this Framework serves several purposes:

- To guide and focus the DACAG as it engages in discussing and commenting on proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC

- To guide agency staff and Commissioners as they determine how to embed and center equity within their efforts
- To prioritize funding and resources for the individuals and communities in California most impacted by climate change, recognizing that they have been underinvested
- To guide proceedings and decision-making processes, particularly those lacking the engagement of individuals and communities most impacted
- To guide agency staff and Commissioners on DACAG’s general position on specific equity-related considerations, including:
 - Non-Energy Benefits
 - Affordability
 - Access, Outreach, and Education
 - Community Engagement
 - Health and Safety
 - Financial Benefits and Economic Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Consumer Protection
 - Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability

If there is a need for additional, more specific feedback beyond the guidance this Framework provides, staff may meet with DACAG Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for their individual perspectives, or bring the topic to the full DACAG for further input and discussion. To support accountability, the DACAG requests the opportunity to learn from staff when and how this Framework and the DACAG’s overall guidance are applied, and any relevant outcomes.

Definitions

Disadvantaged Communities

The term “disadvantaged” as applied to individuals and communities has an inherently negative connotation that ignores the strengths, assets, resources, and resilience of those most impacted by climate change. The DACAG has received and agrees with the significant public comment on the harms associated with the utilization of this term “disadvantaged” which is used in statute to describe this advisory body: Public Utilities Code Section 400(g) states that the agencies shall “establish a disadvantaged community advisory group.” The DACAG is named as such in Section 1.1 of its Charter, and may consider changing its formal name with a revision of the Charter. Until that time, it will continue to be referred to as the DACAG, while encouraging the use of more accurate terminology when it comes to individuals and communities who have been underserved and disinvested. Examples of preferred language include “*priority populations*” or communities, as used by the [CA Air Resources Board](#) (CARB), or “*environmental and social justice (ESJ) communities*”, as established in the CPUC’s [ESJ Action Plan](#), or “*justice communities*”, as defined in the CEC’s [Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#). It’s also important to recognize the diversity of experiences and perspectives within these communities, despite any of these categorizations.

With that said, the DACAG aligns with the [CEC's Energy Equity Indicators](#) tool and uses the following definition of “disadvantaged” (including community residents, workers, and businesses) in its work:

- CalEnviroScreen, as defined by CalEPA,
- Tribal Lands,
- Census tracts where area median income is less than 80% of state median income
- Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

The DACAG also recognizes and supports the utilization of the definition identified in the CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan:

- “Disadvantaged Communities,” defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen, along with those that score within the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen Pollution Burden, but which do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score,
- All Tribal lands,
- Low-income households (household incomes below 80% of the area median income), and
- Low-income census tracts (census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80% of area or state median income).

Equity

The DACAG recognizes the importance of defining equity to ensure a shared understanding and foundation for all stakeholders involved. We acknowledge that there are many working definitions for equity; however, given that our engagement is primarily focused on energy-related policies and programs, we will focus on defining Energy Equity in alignment with the CEC’s [JAEDI](#) Framework:

- “Energy Equity recognizes the historical and cumulative burdens of the energy system borne by Tribes and Justice Communities and by Black, Brown, and Native people in particular. To eliminate these disparities, energy equity centers the voices of Tribes and Justice Communities in energy planning and decision-making and ensures the fair distribution of clean energy benefits and ownership. Energy Equity includes multiple dimensions; the four key dimensions to consider are:
 - **Recognitional Equity:** Recognitional equity aims to identify the communities that have been harmed by the energy system and deserve a larger share of benefits and investments in the future.
 - **Procedural Equity:** Procedural equity aims to implement inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in policies, programs, projects, and operations. Decisions should be informed by those who will be affected by the decisions while recognizing historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics.
 - **Distributional Equity:** Tribes and Justice Communities have not received the complete suite of resources that ensure community success, especially those with the highest need. Resources for the energy system, including funding

allocations, must be distributed strategically to those communities with the highest need first and at a level that will adequately address needs. Distributional equity creates opportunities for people and communities to participate in the energy system supply/value chain, operations, service, and ownership and minimizes potential harm.¹

- Restorative Equity: Restorative equity aims to remedy past harms from the energy system and prevent future harms from occurring.”²

Given the disproportionate environmental and economic impacts of climate change on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the DACAG also offers the following definition of Racial Equity:

- Racial Equity is realized when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.³

Framework: DACAG Equity Guidance and Considerations

The following topics are of particular importance when prioritizing equity and centering priority communities in the development, implementation, and impacts of programs related to SB 350 and other relevant clean energy programs and policies. Each topic includes foundational guidance and considerations for agency staff, decisionmakers, and other stakeholders.

1. *Non-energy benefits (NEBs)*

NEBs represent the array of diverse impacts of energy programs and projects beyond the generation, conservation, and transportation of energy. These include improved health, safety, and comfort to individuals, as well as NEBs that “accrue to society at large,” including local job creation, increased community resilience, improved air quality, and other environmental benefits, such as reduced water use and water quality improvements. Because the failure to consider these latter issues harms society at large, they are also often referred to as social costs. It is imperative to adequately value (either quantitatively or qualitatively) these benefits and costs and integrate them into all resource procurement and investment decisions in all energy programs. Consideration of NEBs and social costs must drive decision-making to avoid disproportionate impacts and maximize community benefits; indeed, California’s [SB 100](#) directs the CEC to “tak[e] into full consideration the economic and environmental costs and benefits of renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.” Many of the Guidance items in this Framework can be considered non-energy benefits or social costs.

2. *Affordability*

¹ Distributional equity also encompasses the reduction of disproportionate harms and environmental health burdens of the existing energy system.

² CEC [Justice Access Equity Diversity Inclusion \(JAEDI\) Framework](#), page A-3. February 2023.

³ Curren, Ryan, Julie Nelson, Dwayne S. Marsh, Simran Noor, and Nora Liu. 2016. “[Racial Equity Action Plans: A How-to Manual](#),” page 4. Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. University of California, Berkeley.

The affordability of energy resources is a significant equity issue. Advancements in clean energy and climate infrastructure cannot come at the expense of low-income ratepayers and priority communities; this is an unacceptable tradeoff. As the CPUC recognizes, Californians “need affordable utility services to ensure health, safety, and participation in society,” and offers an [Affordability Ratio Calculator](#) for measuring the affordability of essential utility services. Energy resources are a basic need and must be clean, affordable, *and* accessible to all; we cannot accept tragic tradeoffs that deepen inequity.

3. Access, Outreach, and Education

In order to benefit from climate investments and programs, priority communities need equitable access to them. Providing that access includes removing barriers to participation (i.e., making participation easy); providing and prioritizing targeted, culturally-relevant outreach; offering solutions and interventions *with and for* these communities that address local needs and interests; meeting people where they are; and providing clear, relevant, transparent, and convenient information. Best practices can include things like providing information and services in-language, including American Sign Language (ASL), and through trusted messengers (including paid, local residents); minimizing eligibility requirements and the burden of proof; offering low-or-no-cost services; streamlining multi-lingual, multi-modal application processes across programs; providing information in multiple modalities, including ADA-accessible modalities, and outside of working hours; and offering food, childcare, and/or stipends, as well as access measures such as ASL interpretation, closed captioning, and/or ADA-accessible documents when workshops are required. The [SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-Income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities](#) addresses this topic in detail.

Trusted community-based organizations (CBOs) and educational institutions rooted in priority communities can and should play a significant role in providing access, outreach, and education. Meaningful engagement with these organizations and lifting up their leadership is important, as is funding, training, and other resources to allow them to be effective, build capacity, and be competitive in the market. Marketing, outreach, and education should be appropriately funded and compensated, and additional considerations should be made for outreach to underserved and hard-to-reach populations, which is often more costly.

Finally, priority communities are the experts on their own needs and experiences. While education about available resources may be necessary, knowledge about the impacts of climate change in their daily lives or on the solutions needed are often embedded within the communities themselves. *See also: Community Engagement.*

4. Community Engagement

Community engagement, participation, and leadership are critical to ensure equitable development of programs and policies. While the DACAG can provide guidance and perspectives, community engagement should extend well beyond the DACAG. There are three helpful mantras to remember:

- “Nothing about us without us” - Priority communities should be centered and included in conversations and decisions that involve or impact them.
- “Equity in, equity out” - Processes, programs, and decisions that center equity will result in equitable outcomes, and the reverse is also true.
- Ask: “Who’s most impacted?” - To avoid unintended consequences and ensure that the right individuals and communities are engaged, start by asking who’s most impacted? Who stands to benefit and who might be harmed by any given decision?

Due to the State’s focus on equitable engagement, priority communities are being approached more often, and at times, may be overwhelmed with the many engagement requests. At times, these requests come late in the process with little time for review and meaningful engagement. To avoid putting such pressure on communities, and to ensure authentic and meaningful engagement, agency staff must look to engage with communities early and often, while building community capacity and expertise if needed. Agencies should also be clear on the type of engagement requested. The [Spectrum for Public Participation](#) identifies various levels of engagement, from providing information to empowering communities. Agency staff should be clear with the community on the type of engagement they are looking for, how the engagement is relevant to the community and its interests, if and how their feedback will be incorporated, and how decisions will be made. The engaged parties should be compensated for their time and expertise and a feedback loop should be planned in advance to let communities know where their feedback went and what the impact was. Finally, communities should have the opportunity to lead on solutions and program implementation when those programs impact them directly. *See also: Access, Outreach, and Education.*

5. Health and Safety

Climate change directly threatens the health and safety of individuals and communities, and environmental and social justice communities are hit first and worst. Investments that perpetuate the use of fossil fuels and rely on carbon combustion continue to worsen climate change and have direct, negative human health and safety impacts, threatening the State’s goal of achieving a zero-carbon economy. Appropriately-designed climate and energy policies and programs have the potential to address and mitigate the disproportionate public health impacts of climate change on priority communities and to optimize the health, well-being, energy resiliency, and safety of California’s most vulnerable people. Public health impacts should be identified and evaluated in program design and investment, and health should be considered and valued as a non-energy benefit of climate policies, investments, and programs. Doing so can build resiliency; reduce climate-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths; reduce climate-related healthcare costs; and advance State climate and air quality goals.

6. Financial Benefits and Economic Development

Investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and other climate investments should benefit priority communities directly, providing financial benefits, incentives, and cost savings, maximizing affordability and minimizing rate impacts on those communities. Considerations should also be made to support local, small, BIPOC, and people of underrepresented genders-owned businesses, allowing them to grow and offer sustainable, local employment. In addition,

renters often face barriers to accessing funding opportunities due to their status as non-owners, and so special consideration should be given to support their ability to access programs and resources.

For example, 2016's CA [Assembly Bill 1550](#) directed the CA Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to establish the following *minimum* funding allocations of California Climate Investments:

- "At least 25 percent of funds must be allocated toward disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within low-income communities or benefiting low-income households
- At least 5 percent must be allocated toward projects within and benefiting low-income communities, or low-income households, that are outside of a CalEPA-defined DAC but within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community"

Similarly, [AB 523](#) (Reyes, 2017, sunsetted in 2023 but extended through CPUC decision D. 23-04-042 beyond AB 523 timeline) required *at least* 25% of the CEC's available Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funds for clean energy projects be located in and benefit disadvantaged communities, with an additional 10% to low-income households. [AB 126](#), (Reyes, 2023) requires at least 50% of the moneys appropriated to the program on programs and projects that directly benefit or serve residents of disadvantaged and low-income communities and low-income Californians.

From an equity perspective, public funding should activate resources for the most in-need and most impacted communities. Locating investments within priority communities that don't benefit those communities is counter to the principles of the DACAG and this Framework.

7. Workforce Development

Workforce development refers both to the training and preparation of workers (supply-side), and to the career opportunities available to those workers (demand-side). Climate policies and programs can invest in both by:

- Promoting and funding workforce training pathways and wraparound services, including pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other industry-recognized training programs, to high-quality careers in the construction, climate infrastructure, and clean energy industries
- Providing opportunities to train the next generation of climate leaders and workers for the clean energy economy
- Setting and tracking hiring goals (local, regional, and targeted hire) across career levels for low-income and underrepresented populations who've been locked out of prosperity, to increase access to and representation in the climate workforce
- Including labor standards, such as prevailing wage and industry-appropriate standards beyond wages (benefits, etc.), in publicly-funded programs and contracts

- Prioritizing careers that offer economic mobility and advancement pathways, not just one-off jobs
- Recognizing that utilizing a high-quality, well-compensated workforce ensures quality work, which advances CA's climate goals.
- Prioritize workforce programs that are accessible to underserved communities, emphasizing the need for programs with reduced time commitments and offer services tailored to trainees with limited English proficiency.
- Advocate for workforce programs that specifically support re-entry populations (justice-impacted/formerly incarcerated individuals).

The CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB) offers a strong framework for creating and sustaining quality jobs and careers, referred to as the [High Road](#). Both the CPUC and CEC hold Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the CWDB to align their shared climate goals with workforce development and economic justice:

- [CEC MOU](#)
- [CPUC MOU](#)

Finally, the University of California Berkeley Labor Center's report, [A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030](#), lays out the connection between climate and careers, and how to advance job quality through climate action.

8. Consumer Protection

Climate-related policies and programs should not create incentives for predatory lending or exploitation of communities for financial gain. Programs must have adequate consumer protection measures, disclosures, and accountability measures to ensure that financially-vulnerable customers are not taken advantage of or otherwise compromised.

The CPUC, during the COVID-19 outbreak, established various [consumer protection](#) provisions to protect consumers from potential financial harms during difficult economic times. Agencies and staff should seek to ensure that the type of protections provided during this time are also considered and embedded into energy programs and policies.

9. Metrics, Evaluation, and Accountability

Policies and programs must establish metrics to measure their success, gauge efficacy, learn and improve, and determine whether they are delivering equitable outcomes. Metrics should go beyond the investment, program, or resource itself; beyond geographic location; and beyond the intended beneficiary. Evaluation should consider the results of the investment, who contributed, who was impacted and to what extent, and any unintended consequences. Metrics can and should include properly-valued NEBs.

In addition, clear equity requirements, incentives, and metrics should be included from the beginning - again, "put equity in, get equity out" - whether it's in program design, or in a solicitation or scoring process. Progress towards goals should be measured throughout implementation and not just reported upon conclusion. Data collection should be transparent,

easily accessible, and up to date. For the sake of accountability, outcomes should be reported and the significance of meeting, not meeting, or exceeding those outcomes should be clear from the outset.

END ATTACHMENT 1

12/12/2025

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Cost of Capital Proceeding ([A.25-03-010](#), [A.25-03-011](#), [A.25-03-012](#), and [A.25-03-013](#))

Dear California Public Utilities Commission,

California electricity and gas rates have surged in recent years, contributing to an energy affordability crisis across the state. The state's large investor-owned utilities (IOUs), however, have requested high increases in their rate of return on equity (ROE) as part of the Cost of Capital Proceeding—increases that would be passed on to ratepayers and further exacerbate this affordability crisis. We ask that the Commission instead *reduce* the approved ROE, which is already higher than the national average and, we believe, much higher than is necessary to attract capital for utility investments.

The current ROEs for the state's large IOUs—SoCal Gas, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), and Southern California Edison (SCE)—range from 10.08–10.33%. The proposed ROEs for these utilities range from 11.0%–11.75%. In contrast, the national average ROE in 2024, as cited by the Administrative Law Judge Jonathan Lakey in the [proposed decision](#) for this proceeding, was 9.78% for electric utilities and 9.65% for gas utilities. In this proceeding, two of the four IOUs—SDG&E and SCE—have requested unprecedented rates of return on equity that are *higher than any approved in 20 years*, and the requested rate for SoCal Gas is higher than any approved rate for the ten years for which we have data (2016–2025). PG&E's requested rate is higher than any of its approved rates of ROE since 2012.

The communities we work with are already facing high energy cost burdens, and are struggling to pay for their bills alongside high housing, transportation, and overall living costs. Ensuring a reasonable ROE will help protect households from overwhelming utility bills, and improve affordability for all families and businesses across California. We respectfully ask the Commission to consider lowering the approved ROE and consider the bill impacts and energy cost burden impacts of its decision especially on disadvantaged and low-income communities when making a final determination in this Cost of Capital proceeding.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group