

DOCKETED

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Regional Roundtable 8: CEC Order Instituting an Informational Proceeding on Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty

May 4, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks





Meeting Logistics

- Public Comment Opportunities
- Principles of a Respectful Meeting

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



CHRISTINA E. SNIDER
TRIBAL ADVISOR

CALIFORNIA TRUTH & HEALING COUNCIL

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPECTFUL MEETINGS



Agenda for Today

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Tribal Consultation Policy (CEC & CPUC)
- Tribal Energy Sovereignty
- Break
- Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants
- CPUC Tribal Land Transfer Policy
- Tribal Energy Equity Indicators
- Improving Energy Project Development Processes
- Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development
- Closing Remarks

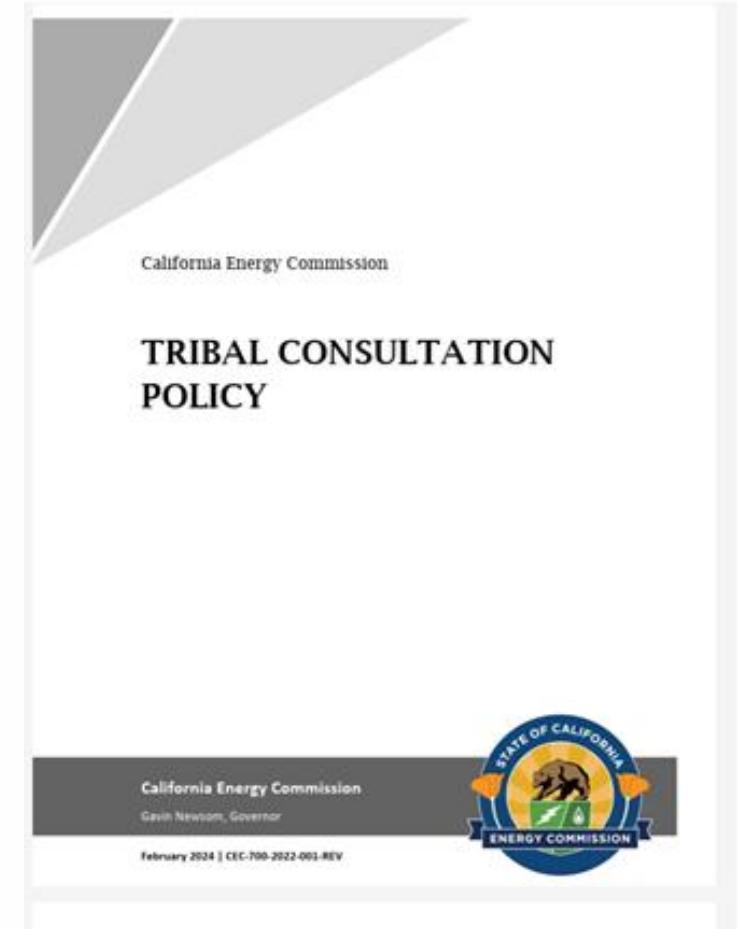
Tribal Consultation Policy





CEC Consultation Policy

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





CEC Tribal Consultation Policy Overview

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



Examples From Other Consultation Policies

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

Tribal Statewide Summit & Regional Roundtables

California Public Utilities Commission

Tribal Policy Rulemaking, Tribal Consultation Policy & Tribal Land Transfer Policy

Spring 2026



California Public
Utilities Commission

CPUC Tribal Policy Rulemaking Rulemaking (R.) 22-02-002

CPUC Tribal Policies and Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR)

- 2018: CPUC adopts a **Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP)**
- 2019: CPUC adopts a **Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP)**
- 2021: CPUC adopts implementation guidelines for the TLTP
- 2022: CPUC opens [rulemaking](#) to consider revisions to TCP and TLTP and to improve Tribal access to Commission programs and proceedings
- 2022-Present: CPUC consults with Tribes to receive feedback on policies.
- 2026: CPUC will make revisions based on Tribal feedback and publish proposed decision

Tribal Rulemaking: Areas of Focus

- ***Tribal Land Transfer Policy***

- Review and update Implementation Guidelines
- Assess data and information exchange
- Other relevant issues identified by stakeholders

- ***Tribal Consultation Policy***

- Review protection of sacred sites and places of cultural importance
- Consider capacity building needs
- Assist with capacity building and improve Tribal access to CPUC proceedings and programs
- Other relevant issues identified by stakeholders

CPUC Tribal Consultation Policy

Tribal Consultation Policy Revisions

- **Goals of Policy Revisions**
 - Recognize and respect Tribal sovereignty
 - Protect Tribal resources and treat those resources with dignity
 - Encourage Tribal government participation in Commission proceedings
 - Institutionalize the Commission's policy of "Early, Often, Meaningful" consultation
 - Set forth the responsibilities of the Office of the Tribal Advisor and Division liaisons
- **Coordinate Tribal Consultation for CPUC Project Review Processes**
 - Electric Transmission and Substation Projects
 - Gas Projects
 - Water Projects
 - Broadband Projects
 - Rail Crossings



Objectives of Consultation

- **“Early, Often, and Meaningful” Consultation**
 - "Early" means before Commission actions and Decisions have been made, and as early in the decision-making process as possible.
 - "Often" means the Commission will strive to build relationships with Tribes throughout the decision-making process, before consultation is needed.
 - "Meaningful" consultation requires the Commission to hear, understand, respect, and consider Tribal feedback and comments using a consensus-seeking approach.
 - **Parties may not agree, but the Commission must demonstrate an understanding of Tribal recommendations and explain why the recommendations could or could not be integrated.**
- **Consultation Objectives**
 - Proactively share pertinent documents and information with Tribal representatives.
 - Conduct consultation within timelines that accommodate Tribes' decision-making processes.
 - Strive for collaborative problem-solving and advancing Tribal priorities in Commission decision-making.

Tribal Consultation Approach

- The Commission first considers whether an action has potential tribal implications:
 - **Does it impact tribal cultural resources, ancestral lands, sacred sites and landscapes, access and use of ancestral lands, ancestral land return, natural resources, economic development, or increase availability of public resources and services to tribal communities?**
- Tribes and the Commission should identify key milestones and timing associated with the action to determine when to initiate consultation.



Formal & Informal Consultation

- **Informal Consultation:** Tribes are encouraged to contact the Office of the Tribal Advisor following the principles of early, often, and meaningful.
 - Intended to address tribal concerns at the staff/technical level by engaging the Tribal Advisor to coordinate appropriate subject matter experts for timely problem solving.
- **Formal Consultation:** Government-to-Government dialog between official representatives of a tribe and the Commission that is initiated via a formal request and follows a prescribed process.
 - Request from tribe in writing to the Tribal Advisor, Executive Director, or Commissioner(s).
 - Formal consultation will be initiated within 60 days of the request or earlier if matter is urgent or time sensitive.



Role of Governor-Appointed CPUC Tribal Advisor

- The Tribal Advisor is the lead CPUC staff person responsible for engaging with and assisting tribes
- Delegated authority to conduct some tribal consultations subject to coordination with Executive Director and Commissioners

Responsibilities include:

- Point of contact for Tribal governments and Commission staff
 - Tribal government representatives may also directly reach out to Commissioners.
- Coordinates outreach, communication, education, and other activities to promote tribal engagement and consultation
- Coordinates work with Commissioners, management, and staff, to implement the Tribal Consultation Policy
- Assists with Tribal government participation in Commission's proceedings in conjunction with the Public Advisors Office

Division Tribal Liaisons

- Each CPUC Division Director is required to designate a Tribal Liaison

Division Tribal Liaison Roles and Responsibilities:

- Serve as main point of contact for CPUC Division staff with Tribal Advisor
- Respond to requests for information and coordinate with Tribal Advisor
- Participate in engagement activities, providing briefings to the Tribal Advisor, Executive Management, and Commission offices, as needed
- Provide support as needed to the Tribal Advisor
- Develop and maintain working relationships with Tribal Advisor on specific matters and coordinate with Tribal government staff as requested
- Complete statewide tribal consultation training and other relevant training

Facilitating Tribal Government Participation in CPUC Programs and Proceedings

- The CPUC Tribal Advisor and Public Advisor's Office will assist Tribes to participate in proceedings or identify appropriate staff or decision-makers
- Tribal Advisor and ALJ Division will develop a notification process to ensure tribes are aware of proceedings impacting Tribes
- Staff will assist Tribal governments to become parties to proceedings, if desired, and locate or submit information to the record
- The Commission will ensure that Tribal governments are informed about how to participate in Commission grants and utility incentives and subsidies

Recourse for Failure to Implement Tribal Consultation Policy

- If a Tribal Government believes the Commission has not met the standards of the Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy:
 - Tribe may submit a written letter to the Executive Director of the CPUC explaining the deficiencies
 - Within 30-days, the Executive Director will either meet with the Tribal government or respond in writing
 - Executive Director will then direct further consultation or other actions as appropriate to bring Commission into compliance with its Tribal Consultation Policy

Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Inviting Comments on Revised TCP

- In September 2025, the Assigned Commissioner's Ruling invited parties to comment on proposed modifications to the Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) and Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP)
 - [Ruling and TCP Documents](#)
- Parties were also invited to address questions regarding the implementation of those policies and associated issues arising from workshops and tribal consultations that have been conducted as part of the rulemaking



What would Tribes like to See in State Energy Agency Consultation Policies? (slide co-developed 05/04/2026)

- Important to have longer time period for consultation policies, longer than the current CEQA process.
- Consultations on preservation are important; what are the limits on ancestral lands, the definition– what the government considers or what the Tribe knows to be their land?
- Important to have tribal monitors helping to make decisions, any time dirt is touched (trees, landscape, culturally significant plants, etc.). Early contact with Tribes will avoid time and future issues. Gathering places, burial sites, culturally significant areas need to be addressed
- Having multiple methods of contact to agency representatives is important
- Find ways to remove communication roadblocks among subcontractors or utilities. Flow of information to Tribe needs to be improved; lots of information lost in multiple levels
- Need to be more explicit on when process begins. Front-loading of information before process begins. Contact the Tribe before projects are in the works; make sure they are in the loop at all steps
- Important for Tribe to be able to indicate ancestral land boundaries
- Having direct contact with Commissioners/Commissions is important and helpful How does the CPUC/CEC decide what constitutes need for an action to be noticed to Tribe? Important to let Tribes understand the process.
- Communication - Who reaches out when? Communication when there is a positive hit on sacred lands (file at the Native American Heritage Commission)
- Notification needs to happen to let other Tribes understand and know what is happening; Tribes can help support outreach to other Tribes. If ancestral lands border to other Tribes – keep communication lines open. Tribe-to-tribe notifications.
- Important to receive as much information as possible; let individual Tribes determine if they want to receive less notice/updates. Better to over communicate. Putting in a newsletter is not always enough. Some tribes want formal letter notification.
- Having set policies helps build trust, especially with staff changes
- Important to acknowledge and realize non-federally recognized Tribes and their culturally significant lands; they should have the same type of outreach and communication as federally-recognized Tribes
- Always go back to “Early, Often, Meaningful” Early: early as possible; **meaningful**: additional steps to ensure contact is made; genuine attempt to reach someone (letters, calls, emails, etc.). Ensures the information is going to the correct contact.
- Grouping notices is helpful; structure information in a chronological order – what is coming up first; what is needed from Tribe
- CEC outreach – newsletters, emails, calls, Native American Heritage Commission (federal and non-federally recognized Tribes). CPUC outreach – same process as CEC, but plan



How to Implement State Energy Agency Consultation Policies? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Is there an ideal timeline?
- Once a project is real (funds allocated, public notification, etc), outreach to Tribes needs to happen
- Increased staff at agencies to help support Tribal programs so that staff does not need to relearn what the Tribe's priorities are.



Anything else? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Developing relationships is important; not relearn processes every time
- Reach out to Tribes annually to know who to connect with
- There is staff turnover at Tribes and agencies – important to keep up with current contacts
- Hold annual summits to maintain contacts and cultivate relationships
- Some tribes have a list to send updates to when they have an election. Agencies ensuring they are on those update lists.

Tribal Energy Sovereignty





History of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty





Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Goals

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



Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Actions

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



Components of Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Actions Related to Land

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



Where we are today...

State Funding Eligibility Expanded

- Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA)

Capacity Funds

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

Tribal Set-Asides

- Tribal Specific Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (Tribal EBD)

Removing Funding Barriers

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

Tribal Engagement in Planning

- Offshore Wind
- SB 100

Advancing in Tribal Energy Sovereignty State Partnership Frameworks





Advancing in Tribal Energy Sovereignty State Partnership Frameworks

Continued





Advancing in Tribal Energy Sovereignty State Partnership Frameworks

Continued



Structural Models for Tribal Energy Sovereignty

TACE



Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy



What does tribal energy sovereignty look like for your tribe? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Grid reliability- addressing rolling blackouts.
- Important to keep power on for elderly members of Tribe – could be a good indicator of how well (or not) the state is doing
- Secondary source of energy is important; backup generators cover part of the issue
- Propane tanks present issues during inclement weather when can't be refilled. Doesn't solve all resiliency issues.
- Partnership with state agencies or become independent can help alleviate the impact on the grid
- As a Tribe, implemented plans to support the Tribal elders needs for power upgrades, energy reliability, home improvements
- Elders first to benefit from energy sovereignty
- Grants for solar or generators do not include funds for maintenance; important for Tribes to have enough funds to maintain these programs. Should have more maintenance funding or be clear about what costs may arise.
- Energy efficient homes come at additional costs to maintain and support – initial grant funds are good, but need supplemental funds to maintain into the future
- Solar on homes need backup batteries
- Initial implementation of solar is a challenge with certain homes, infrastructure is not there, roofs need to be upgraded, etc.
- All electric homes need to have a reliable grid, especially in more rural areas
- Pre-planning costs are too high for some projects (such as a microgrid) - is there assistance available to help with pre-planning?
- Remote energy sovereignty is very expensive – true energy sovereignty is not reliance on the grid. All Tribes have different resources available



What would be the most critical thing to include in the draft Tribal Energy Sovereignty Policy? What can the CEC do to better support tribal energy sovereignty goals? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Important to assist the Tribes on the back-end of implementing the programs
- Important to let Tribes know off all the components of a project, as well as expenditures after the implementation

Morning Break



CPUC Tribal Land Transfer Policy

Tribal Land Transfer Policy Background

- December 2019: CPUC adopts the Tribal Land Transfer Policy (TLTP)
 - The purpose of the TLTP is to provide tribes with the opportunity to regain ancestral land currently owned by Investor-Owned Utilities regulated by the CPUC (e.g., PG&E, SCE, SoCalGas, and SDG&E)
- January 2021: CPUC adopts TLTP Implementation Guidelines
 - Adoption of the Implementation Guidelines made participation mandatory for energy and large water IOUs
 - Adopted in Resolution E-5076
- February 2022: CPUC initiates a Rulemaking (R.22-02-002) to consider revisions to improve the TLTP Implementation Guidelines based on Tribal feedback

Tribal Land Transfer Policy Goals

- Recognize and respect Tribal sovereignty
- Protect Tribal sacred places and cultural resources
- Ensure meaningful consideration of Tribal interests and the return of lands within a Tribe's ancestral territory
- Encourage and facilitate notice and tribal participation in matters before the Commission that involve Real Property transfers subject to Public Utilities Code Section 851 through either formal applications or the Advice Letter Process

Tribal Land Transfer Policy Procedures and Scope

- Prior to an Investor-Owned Utility disposition of real property, the utility will first offer applicable Tribes the right to take or purchase the property
- Mandatory Tribal noticing requirements provide Tribes with sufficient time and information to determine whether to indicate an interest in a specific property and later negotiate acquisition of the land
- The TLTP applies to IOU real property whose disposition is subject to approval by the Commission, including but not limited to transactions requiring Public Utilities Code Section 851 approval

Proposed Revisions to the TLTP In Response to Tribal Input

- Proposed revisions are based on feedback obtained during:
 - Tribal Policies OIR regional tribal consultations held in 2022-2025
 - Formal comments received in response to the Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Inviting Comment on the Revised TLTP 2.0
 - Staff proposed improvements from review of IOU TLTP Quarterly Reporting
- Proposed revisions identify possible changes to the TLTP intended to improve tribal participation and outcomes
- Proposed revisions identify potential future workshop topics including:
 - Discussion of tribal experience with the TLTP
 - Development of maps of IOU land holdings within respective service territories
 - Increased access to CPUC staff

Proposed Revisions to TLTP

- Extend the time period for Tribe to express interest in property.
- Provide Tribes with more information up front about properties.
- Develop maps of IOU owned fee lands.
- Create Tribal Map overlays for IOU service territories.
- New Quarterly Reporting Meeting and Uniform IOU Public Website.

Additional CPUC Resources to Facilitate the TLTP

- The Commission's Tribal Liaison and assigned Energy Division staff will assist in implementing the TLTP in coordination with the Office of Tribal Advisor
- Providing a point of contact for tribes seeking advice on Commission proceedings, pending applications, and advice letters regarding dispositions of real property
- Tribal Governments may contact the Commission's Office of the Tribal Advisor or the Commission's Public Advisor for assistance:
 - E-mail: TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov, Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
 - Phone: (866) 849-8390

Questions?



CPUC Contact Information

Office	Personnel	Contact Info
Commissioner Darcie L. Houck	Caleb Jones, Advisor Amanda Singh Birmingham, Chief of Staff	Caleb.Jones@cpuc.ca.gov Amanda.Singh@cpuc.ca.gov Request a Meeting with Commissioner Houck: Meeting Request Form - Commissioner Houck
Tribal Advisor's Office	Governor's Office is hiring for Tribal Advisor	TribalAdvisor@Cpuc.Ca.Gov
Executive Director's Office	Tom Gates	Thomas.Gates@Cpuc.Ca.Gov
Public Advisors Office	Eric Sawyer	Eric.Sawyer@Cpuc.Ca.Gov
Administrative Law Judge	Assistant Chief ALJ Anthony Colbert ALJ Valerie Kao	Anthony.Colbert@cpuc.ca.gov Valerie.Kao@cpuc.ca.gov
Public Advocates Office	Toni Floyd Cat Blake	Antoinette.Floyd@Cpuc.Ca.Gov Catherine.Blake@Cpuc.Ca.Gov





What would Tribes like to See in the CPUC Tribal Land Transfer Policy?

(slide co-developed 05/04/2026)

- The history of the land should be included with information given by CPUC and IOUs
- Current proposal – when IOUs share available parcels of land, they need to show map, aerial photo, GPS coordinates, size, description, appraised value and previous use, environmental reports
- Water rights tied to property need to be acknowledged
- Mineral rights tied to property need to be acknowledged
- Benefit to tribe and could sway a purchase
- If land is on Tribal, ancestral land, why not give a Tribe right of first refusal?
- 90 day opportunity to prepare an offer
- Timeline is important – Tribes need approval from leadership, sometimes meetings don't happen as often and extra time is needed to review documents, info, and get approval
- Data sovereignty is important to consider



How to Implement the Tribal Land Transfer Policy?

(slide co-developed 05/04/2026)

- Awareness that there can be some hang ups with the BIA when a land is gifted. If a Tribe is going to transfer land into trust, process sometimes gets held up, title issues.
- Is there something in place to alleviate hold-ups when land is gifted to a Tribe?
- Make it recognizable at title companies.
- Title issues were hung up at the county level – claimed needed more documentation than a congressional act to record the title transfers
- County issues revolved around survey of the land



Anything else? (slide co-developed 05/04/2026)

Lunch Break

Expected to resume around 12:45 pm



Best Practices for Tribal Energy Grants





CEC Tribal Grants Working Group

Goals:

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

EXAMPLE GRANT STRUCTURES





Example 1: Equitable Building Decarbonization Program, Tribal Direct Install

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

Structure of grant:

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





Example 2: Clean Transportation Program

Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning and Workforce Training and Development

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

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

Structure of grant:

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





Example 3: Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program

Overview: funds grid hardening and energy resilience projects across California that increase community energy resilience and reliability, advance state energy policy goals, provide community benefits, and create good-paying jobs.

Structure of grant:

- Technical assistance
- Hosted "how-to workshops" to provide in-depth guidance on different parts of the application
- Two rounds of funding
- Simplified application wherever possible





Example 4: Funding Tribal Microgrids

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

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



DISCUSSION





How do you hear about CEC grant opportunities? How would you like to hear about them? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Email works (especially for a grant writer or CAO to be able to share information)
- Information needs to go to different people, so email is helpful to be able to share
- Webinar overview or an opportunity to hear a larger list of opportunities available
- Making sure getting information to the correct people
- Social media with links (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)



How can CEC better reduce the barriers to applying for grants? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Webinars to explain a clear understanding of what's available
- Technical assistance
- Time barriers – cost match is the time barrier because need approval from Tribal Council; dependent on when Council meetings are, could hold up the process
- Technical assistance models that have worked well?
- Having staff available via phone to answer questions to complete applications correctly as deadline approaches
- Enough staff capacity towards the deadline, as more calls may come in at this time
- Technical assistance after the grant is awarded, follow-up is needed



What challenges have you experienced in grant administration? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Technical assistance during implementation
- Administering the grants:
 - Request for limited waivers of sovereign immunity creates challenges to meet timelines
 - Council meetings do not happen regularly enough to meet various timelines; getting enough Tribal Council members in a room together to agree on an issue is challenging
 - Any time the State makes a change, contract needs to go back to Council for a vote
 - The earlier to have consensus on issues, the better
 - Not having a clear instruction on invoicing or reporting is challenging
 - Each reporting goal keeps changing – would be helpful to have clear, concise reporting requirements. Transparency up front is important
 - Having staff available to answer questions about what falls into the grant requirements – getting clear guidance on what can be approved. Make sure grant managers are available
 - Ensure staff is educated enough to be able to answer questions, especially if new reporting requirements



What would you like to see in terms of the structure of CEC grant opportunities? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- More funding for advance planning and maintenance of projects
- Workforce training and development is important
- Should workforce dev be required on grants? – Flexibility is important; some Tribes may not have the capacity to support a requirement.
- Having someone from the Tribe to be trained on how to fix equipment is helpful
- Supports job growth and makes repairs more accessible
- Maintenance of projects – ECA program with 1% interest loans. Would this be helpful?
- Tribes in rural areas may not have access to any support services nearby
- Consumer protection requirements and being transparent around what implementation looks like – explain what kind of service will be needed after project is complete; what might the unintended costs are
- Implementing a way to dispose of old products as you upgrade to newer energy efficient equipment; cost associated with disposal of old equipment
- Plan written into the grant of how you are going to dispose of equipment

THANK YOU!



Tribal Energy Equity Indicators



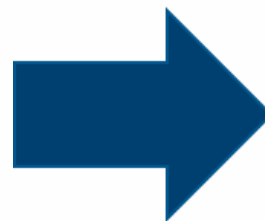


Energy Equity Indicators Tool

Data Visualization and Mapping



Database of Equity Data



Insights to Help
Prioritize CEC Efforts
and Investments for
Tribes



Geographic Data Layers



Data Access and
Analysis



Relevance to Other OIIP Efforts

Energy Resources

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

Energy Grants

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



Energy Equity Metrics Categorization



Energy Metrics

Access



Reliability



Efficiency



Affordability



Programs



Clean Energy Adoption



Supplementary Metrics



Community



Health



Safety

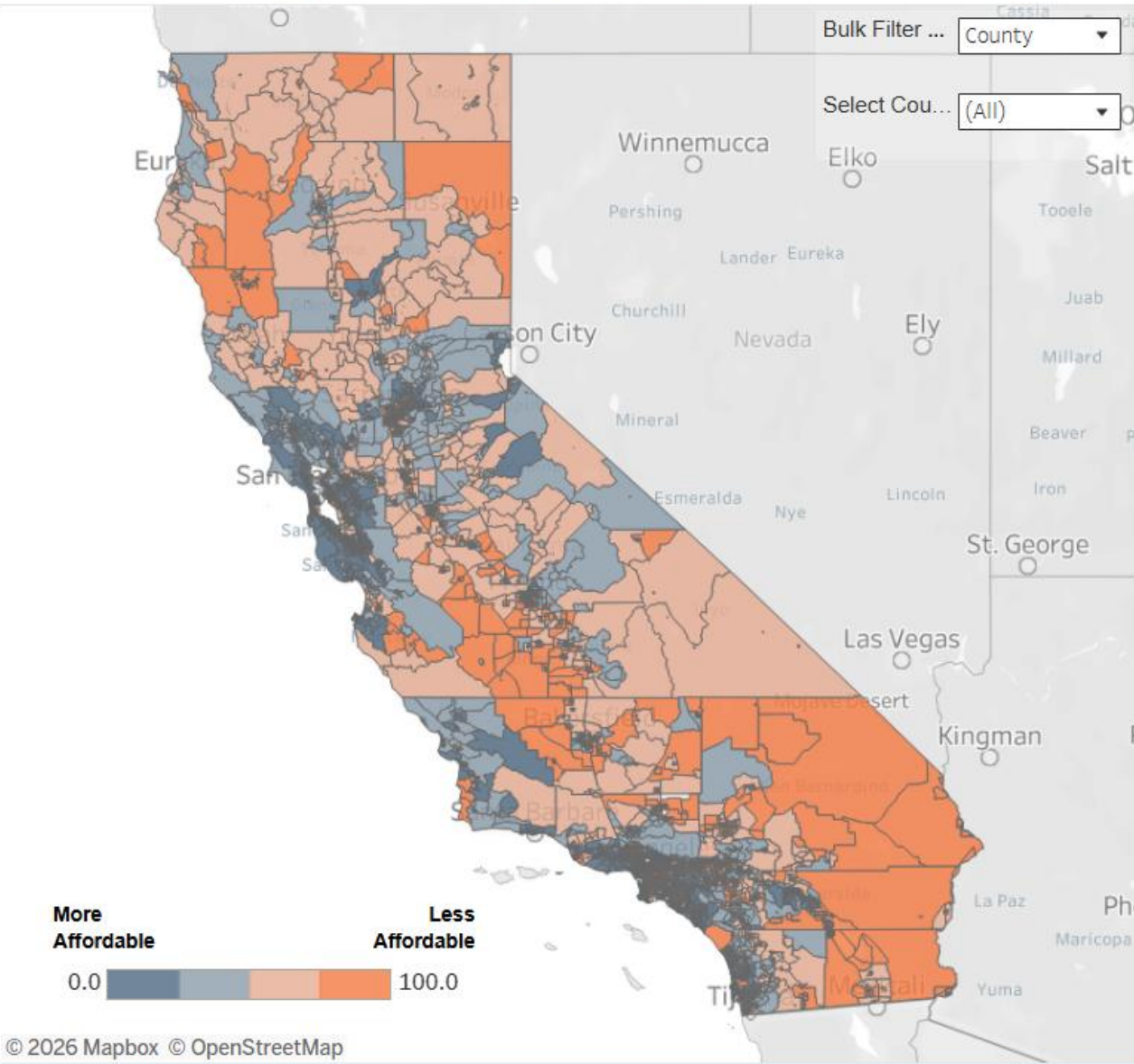


Socioeconomics

A Deep Dive into Energy Affordability

(Draft for Public Comment Only, Data is NOT Final)

Energy Affordability Index by Census Tract



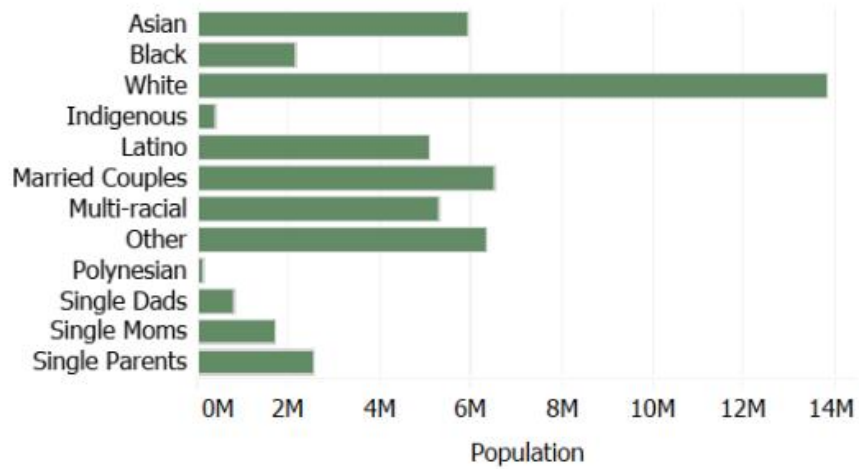
Pearson Correlation Tool

Independent Variable: Energy Affordability Index

Vulnerability Variable: Energy Affordability Index

r = 1.00

Community Characteristics



Population Selected **39,234,926** Average Household Size **3.0**

Average Energy Affordability Index **50.00**

Average Energy Burden **2.1%**

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

Filters

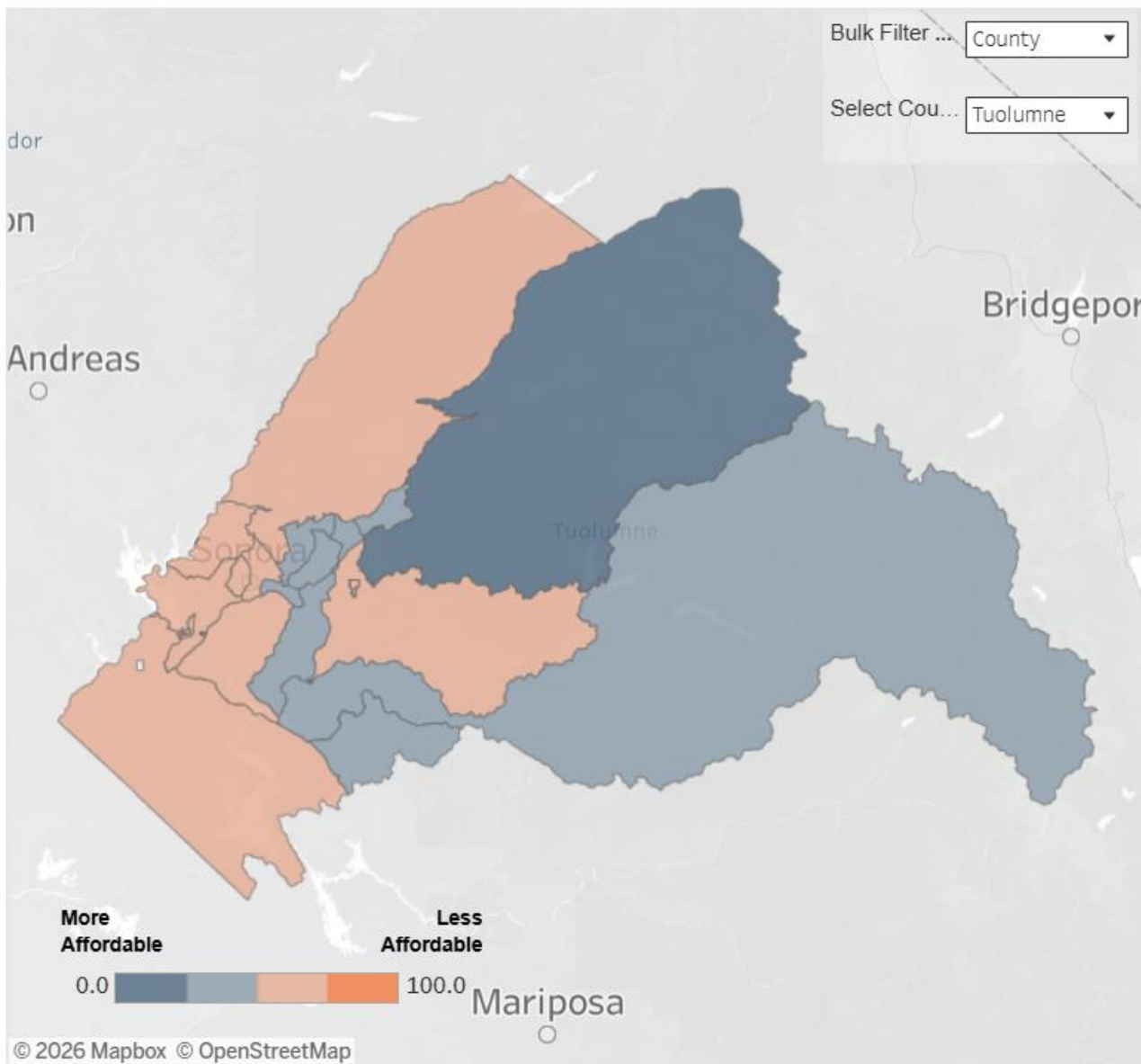
- Geographic Level:
- Census Tract
 - ZIP Code
 - City
- Metric:
- Energy Affordability Index
 - Energy Affordability Gap
 - Energy Burden
- Home Ownership Type:
- Combined
 - Owners
 - Renters
- Energy Affordability Index:
- Show All
 - Filter Top 25%
- SB 535 DACs Filter:
- Show All
 - DACs
- Justice Census Tract Filter:
- Show All
 - Justice Census Tracts



A Deep Dive into Energy Affordability

(Draft for Public Comment Only, Data is NOT Final)

Energy Affordability Index by Census Tract



Pearson Correlation Tool

Independent Variable:

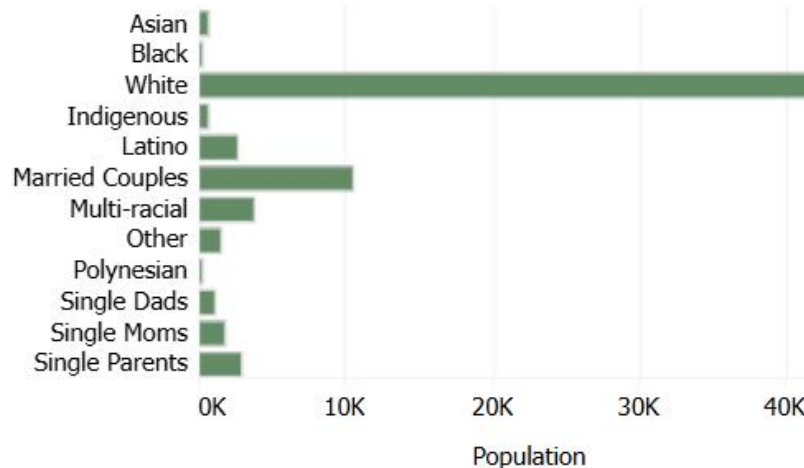
Energy Affordability Index

Vulnerability Variable:

Energy Affordability Index

$r = 1.00$

Community Characteristics



Population Selected **52,955**

Average Household Size **2.3**

Average Energy Affordability Index **48.34**

Average Energy Burden **3.2%**

Total Energy Affordability Gap **6.3M**

Filters

Geographic Level:

Census Tract

ZIP Code

City

Metric:

Energy Affordability Index

Energy Affordability Gap

Energy Burden

Home Ownership Type:

Combined

Owners

Renters

Energy Affordability Index:

Show All

Filter Top 25%

SB 535 DACs Filter:

Show All

DACs

Justice Census Tract Filter

Show All

Justice Census Tracts





How could your tribe utilize these metrics or this tool? Would it be useful for energy planning or grant funding? (slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- If the data is accurate, could be a useful tool.
- Important to know where the data comes from; does it accurately represent the region, people's lived experiences?
- Some data comes from Dept of Energy
- Transportation fuel costs or electric costs to fuel electric cars – internal CEC data
- Utility meter readings – actively working on these values
- Tribal feedback and input would be helpful to make this tool more accurate
- Want to tie electricity consumption data to weather data; track usage on various factors
- This tool could be used in grant funding to showcase real case affordability



Are there any other uses that your tribe would find beneficial? Other features that could be added?

(slide co-developed 05/04/26)

- Filter out specific cities or locations?
- Census track, zip code, city, county, congressional districts, state assembly/senate, natural gas, electric utility
- Include a filter to include land that has been designated as a national forest; sparsely populated and largely second homes in the region



Do you have any other thoughts on how Energy Equity Indicators can better meet tribal needs?
(slide co-developed 05/04/26)

Thank You!



Quenby Lum, Energy End Use Survey Specialist
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Afternoon Break



Improving Energy Project Development Processes





Purpose of Discussion

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



Example Approaches for Energy Project Development Process

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



Project Process Example

1. Project Potential & Project Options

- Preliminary assessment of opportunity
- Data collection
- Determine ownership structure
- Permitting and environmental compliance considerations

2. Project Refinement

- Planning and development
- Engineering and design

3. Project Implementation

- Financing
- Construction

4. Project Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

- Post-construction management of project



1. Project Potential & Options

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

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



2. Project Refinement

Finalize project structure and decisions

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





3. Project Implementation

Project contract and construction

- Finalize pre-construction agreements and finances





4. Project O&M



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

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



Feedback / Suggestions for Improvement

Co-developed input 05/04/26

- Very early consultation when projects are looking like a certainty rather than an idea (during the study/analysis stage, cultural resources studies, CEQA, NEPA)
- Prepare contracting, monitors to be ready for day 1 of the project
- Do Tribes want to have conversations with developers before they do to CEC? Is that too early? Might be too early – not trying to stop progress, Tribes want to make sure progress is being laid out properly, relocation of resources, all components are being thought out thoroughly
- Transmission lines going through Tribal land –governmental consultation and right-of-ways. Growing land base and transmission issues will need to be addressed
- Replanting or replenishing of resources – looking at what the relationship is with the land; considerations can be made. Be more mindful about projects. Does this need to be here or can it be a different location? Is there an offset instead of eliminating or extracting resources?
- Example: Offset your carbon footprint; what are you doing that is a net positive for the region or environment?
- Mitigation and backing up resources
- Access or data sovereignty – data collected by developer to be shared with Tribe
- Data sovereignty will continue to be important – gaming or government business or development
- Conceiving community benefits



Thank You!

Useful links:

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

Tribal Cultural Resource Considerations Regarding Clean Energy Development





Introduction

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



Background on DRECP

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



Summary of Data-gathering Initiative

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



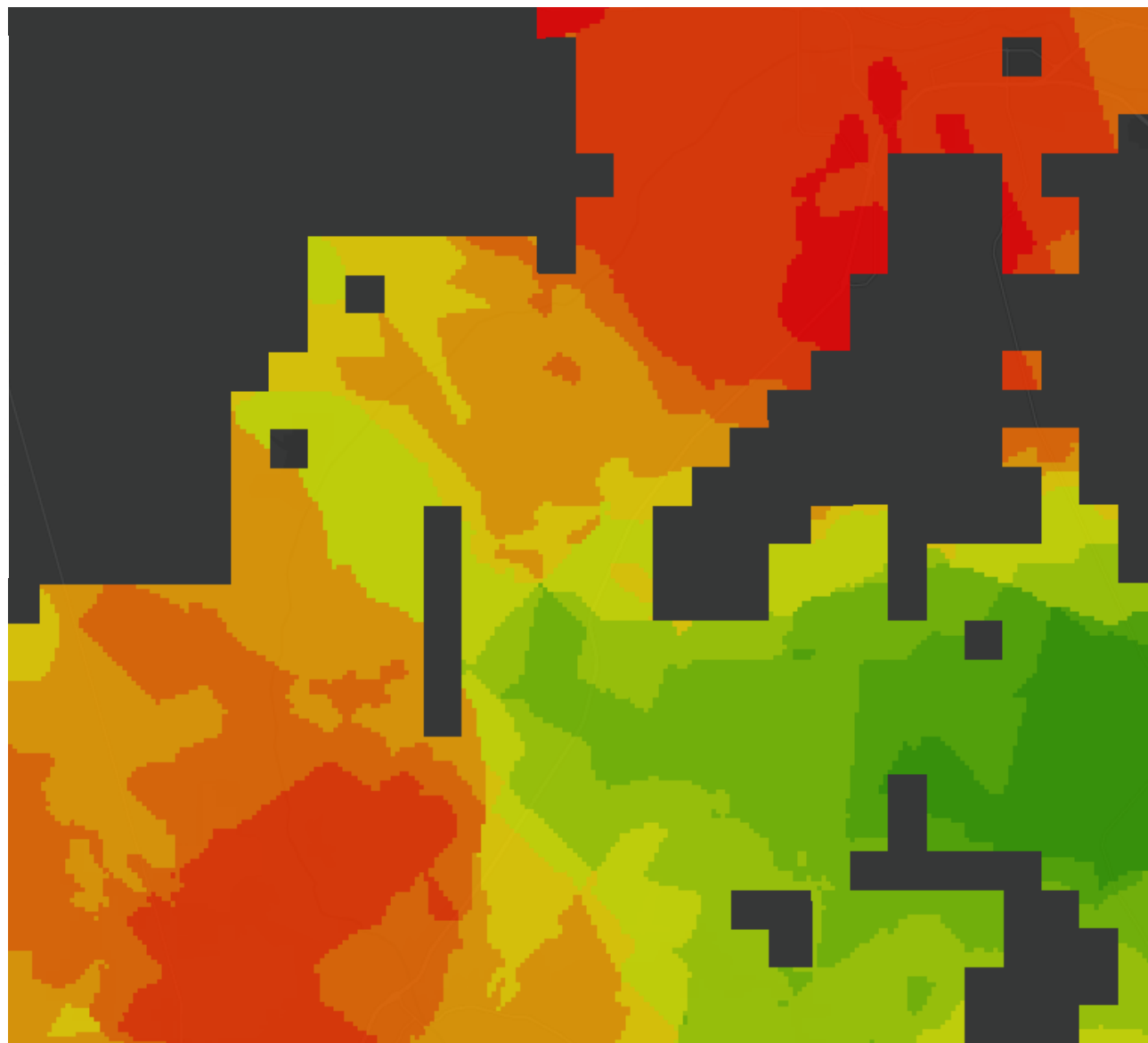
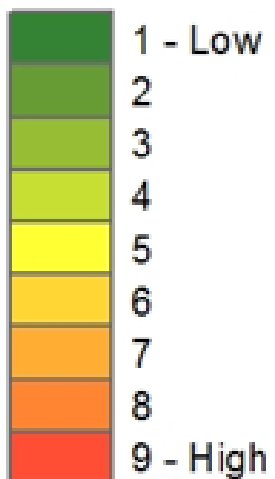
Summary of DGI Methods (continued)

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



DGI Archaeological Sensitivity Map

Archaeological Resource Sensitivity





San Joaquin Valley Solar

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

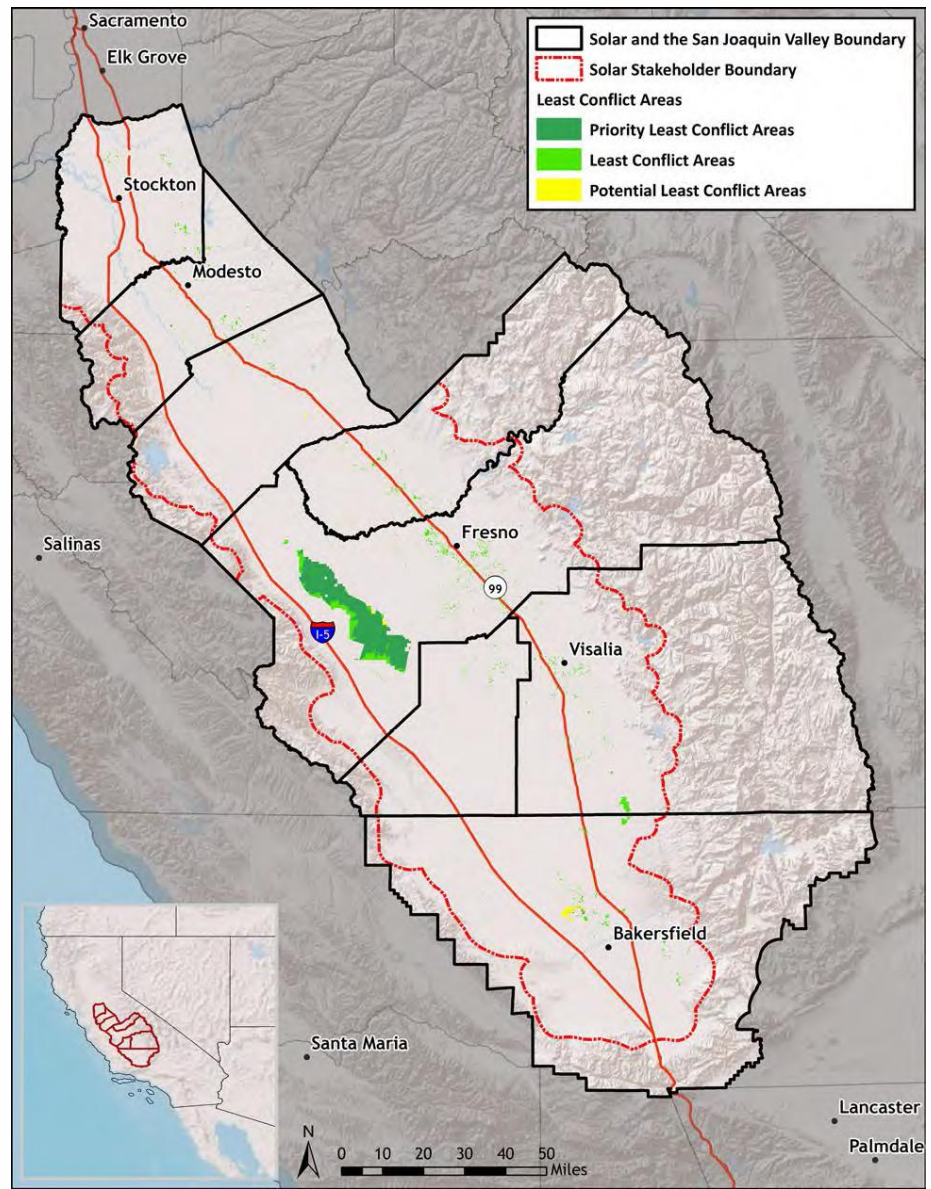


San Joaquin Valley Solar: Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resource Methods

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



San Joaquin Valley Solar: Tribally Identified Least-Conflict Areas



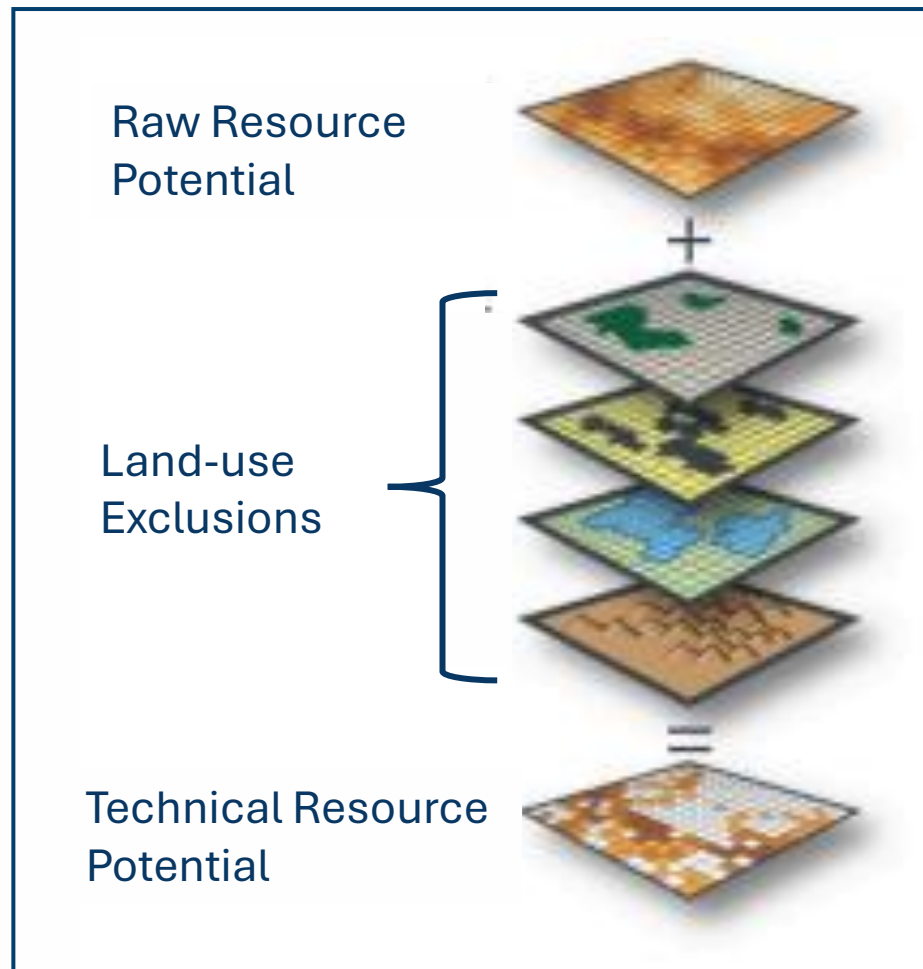
Introduction to CEC Land Use Screens





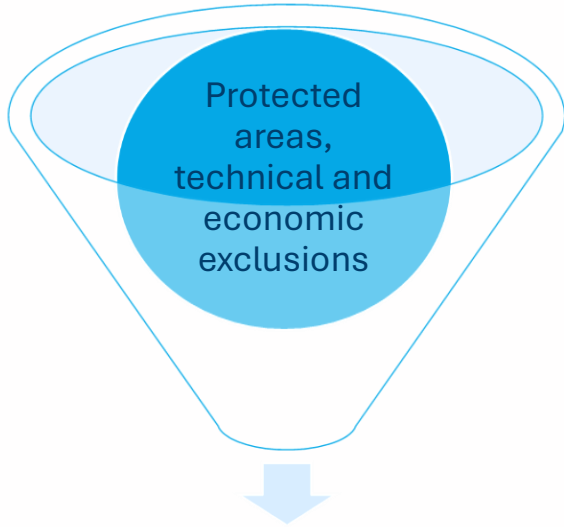
Land Use Screens for Electric System Planning

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

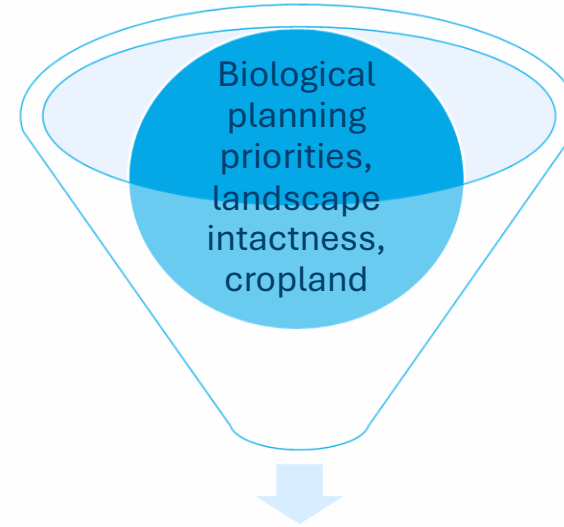
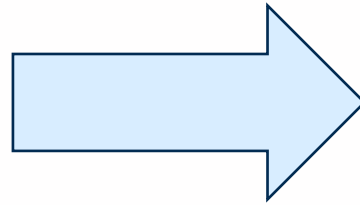




Screens Example: Identifying Technical Resource Potential (Solar)



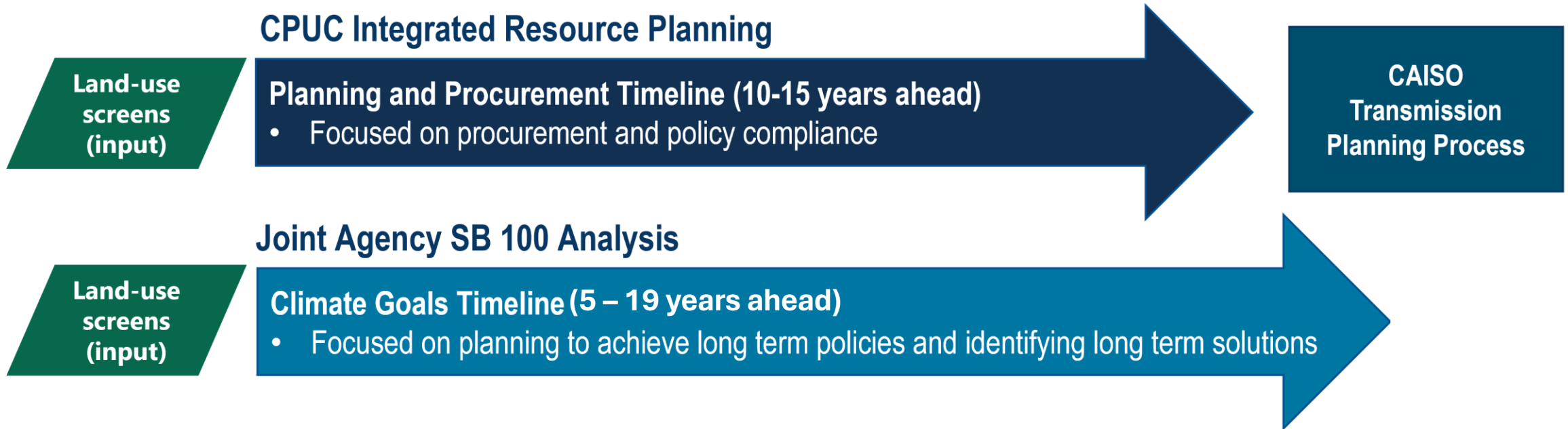
Solar technical resource potential after applying these “base” exclusions



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



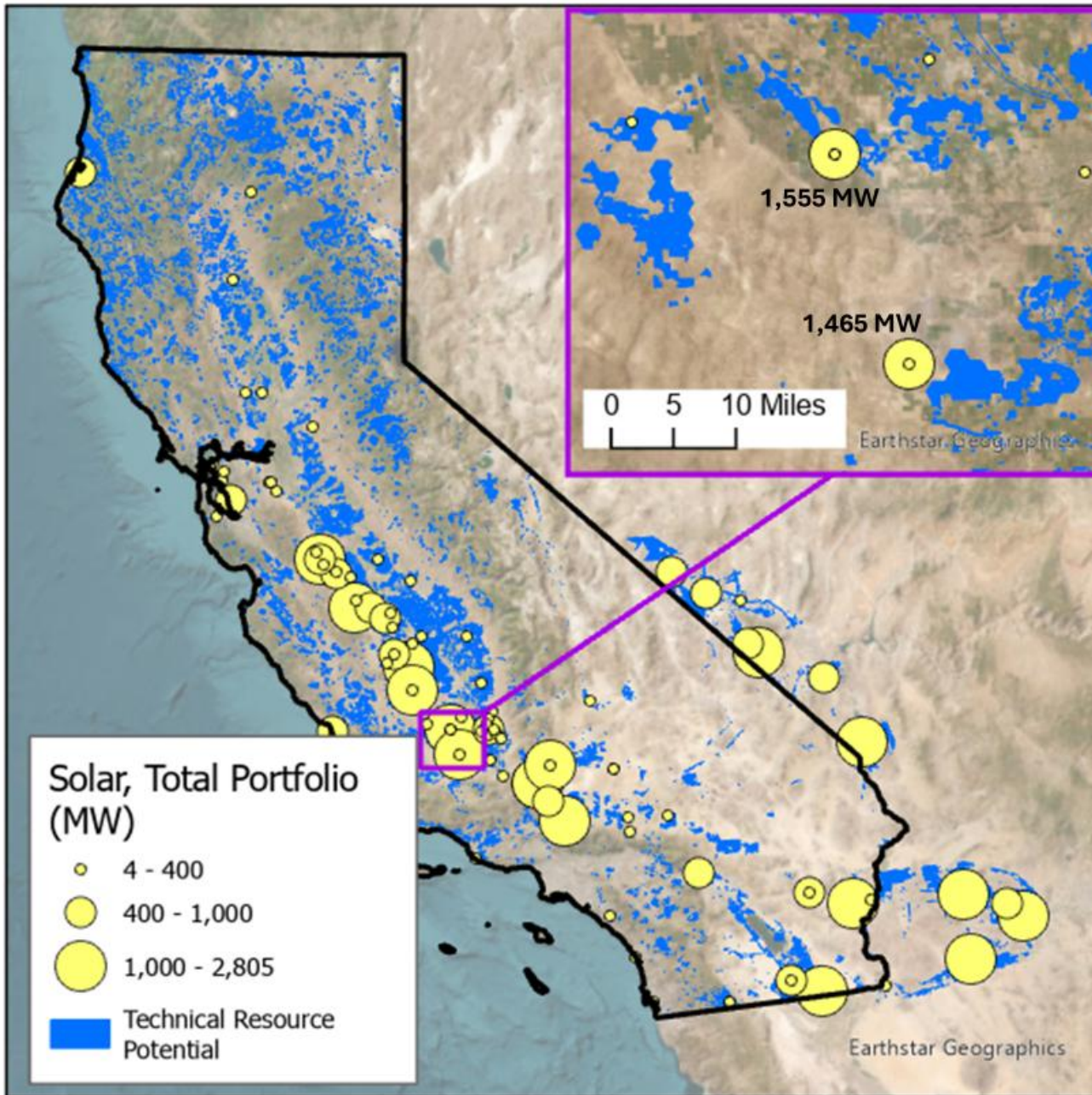
Land Use in State Resource Planning



Land-use screens:

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

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



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



Opportunities for Participation in Land Use Planning

These public energy planning processes incorporate the land use screens

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



Comparing Approaches: Status Quo

Typical Project Planning Sequence

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



Comparing Approaches: Advance Planning

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



What Are Some Benefits to These Approaches?

Slide co-developed 05/04/26

- See points made under consultation and engaging with tribes on energy projects.
- Making sure consultations happen much earlier
- Understanding the impact of the Tribal cultural resources are and what disruption could mean



What Are Some Drawbacks to These Approaches?

Slide co-developed 05/04/26

- Privacy concerns – some Tribes may not want significant areas being shown publicly
- Tribe has good mapping process
- Protecting data is important
- Important to keep data collected under lock and key
- Appreciated flipping the map to show areas of least concern, rather than showing sensitive sites. Some may have concerns with mapping sensitive sights, even if not granular.



Are other methods and approaches needed?

Slide co-developed 05/04/26

- Insist when an archaeologist comes to do a consultation, all cultural resource information is put in the right place/reports for mitigation
- Consider cultural landscapes – add ethnographer or archaeologist on the team when reviewing everything
- Look at compensatory mitigation
- In CEQA cultural landscapes are part of cultural resource (plants and animals)
- Expanded communication among different people in the process; less siloed information

Closing Comments





Takeaways from the day

Slide co-developed 05/04/26

- Conversation around consultations and different ways to build more capacity to support Tribes to stay informed
- Resources do exist – making sure Tribes understand and know about the available resources
- Tribal input is important and appreciated when crafting policies
- Proactive engagement
- Got really solid, detailed feedback
- Wholistic funding – planning, project and maintenance. More funding needed – not just for the project itself.
- Important not to miss the common-sense aspects around clean energy projects
- Good insight on consultations – having the ability to talk directly with agency reps is important
- Cultural resources are not part of mitigation – needs to be part of written policy
- Insightful to share ways for CEC/CPUC to improve and insightful to think about ways Tribes can improve communication, etc.
- Appreciative of the opportunity to listen and be part of the conversation
- This is what meaningful conversations looks like; CEC has shown themselves to be good partners
- Making sure our relationships are real before we have a problem, so when problems arise, there is a solid basis of trust
- Direct meetings and contact is important; relationship building is must. There has to be face-to-face interaction
- Combining forces with neighbors could be a powerful thing



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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



Ways to Stay Engaged

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

SUBSCRIBE

Tribal Program

Email *

SUBSCRIBE

Next OIP Regional Roundtable: Tomorrow

Information available soon!



THANK YOU!

