

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	22-RENEW-01
Project Title:	Reliability Reserve Incentive Programs
TN #:	270606
Document Title:	Proposition 4 DEBA Draft Solicitation
Description:	The proposed solicitation is focused on supporting the deployment of new distributed energy resources (DERs) that can improve the reliability of California's electrical grid during extreme events.
Filer:	Pamela Doughman
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	6/12/2026 3:11:07 PM
Docketed Date:	6/12/2026

DRAFT GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Proposition 4 Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Grant Program



GFO-26-XXX-DRAFT

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations>

State of California

California Energy Commission

June 2026

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
ATTACHMENTS	4
I: INTRODUCTION.....	1
A. Purpose of Solicitation.....	1
B. Background	1
C. Definitions of Keywords.....	2
D. Key Activities and Dates	8
E. Funding.....	9
1. Amount Available and Minimum/Maximum Funding Amounts.....	9
2. Award Funding and Disbursement Process	9
3. Allowable Costs	10
4. Unallowable Costs.....	10
5. Match Funding Requirement.....	11
6. Match Share Restrictions	12
7. Proposition 4 Funding Restrictions	13
8. Change in Funding Amount	14
F. Notice of Pre-Application Workshop	14
G. Questions and Communication Restrictions.....	14
H. Contact Information	15
I. Agreement Contingent on Funding Availability	15
II: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.....	16
A. Applicant Requirements.....	16
1. Eligibility	16
2. Terms and Conditions	16
3. Tribal Requirements.....	17
4. Delay in award	18
5. Reservation of Right to Cancel Proposed Award.....	18
6. California Secretary of State Registration.....	18
B. Project Requirements.....	19
1. Location and Site	19
2. Eligible Technologies.....	19
3. Ineligible Technologies.....	20
4. Project Specifications	20
5. Performance Requirements	21
6. Measurement and Verification	27
7. Reporting Requirements.....	29
8. Proposition 4 Directed Priorities	30
9. Project Readiness	33
C. Environmental Review Requirements	35
1. Environmental Review.....	35
2. CEQA Related Right to Reject an Application or Cancel Proposed Award.....	36
3. Environmental Review of Projects Proposed on Tribal Lands.....	37

4. Environmental Review of Projects Proposed on Federal Lands	37
D. CEC’s Rights and Remedies	37
III: APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.....	38
A. Application Format, Page Limits	38
B. Method For Delivery	39
C. Modifying or withdrawal of application	40
D. Required Application Attachments.....	40
1. Application Form (Attachment 01)	40
2. Project Narrative (Attachment 02)	40
3. Project Team Form (Attachment 03)	41
4. Scope of Work (Attachment 04).....	41
5. Project Schedule (Attachment 05).....	41
6. Budget (Attachment 06).....	41
7. CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07)	43
8. Past Products Information Form (Attachment 08)	43
9. Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 09)	44
10. Measurement & Verification Plan (Attachment 10)	44
11. Applicant Declaration (Attachment 11)	45
12. Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12)	45
IV: EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS.....	46
A. Application Evaluation	46
1. Phase One: Application Screening	46
2. Phase Two: Application Scoring	46
B. Ranking, Notice of Proposed Award, and Agreement Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA).....	47
1. Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA).....	47
2. Debriefings.....	47
3. Agreements.....	47
C. Grounds to Reject an Application or Cancel an Award	48
D. Phase One: Application Screening	49
E. Phase Two: Application Scoring	51
1. Scoring Scale.....	51
2. Scoring Criteria	52
V: ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS	61
A. Cost of Developing Application.....	61
B. Applicants’ Admonishment.....	61
C. Solicitation Cancellation and Amendment	61
D. Confidentiality	61
E. Solicitation Errors.....	61
F. Immaterial Defect.....	62
G. Clarification Interviews.....	62
H. Opportunity to Cure Administrative Errors	62
I. Documents Relied Upon and Related Websites	63

List of Tables

Table 1: Definition of Keywords	2
Table 2: Key Activities and Dates	8
Table 3: Solicitation Funding Parameters	9
Table 4. Available Performance Pathways vs. Project Type	22
Table 5: Application Documents Submittal Order.....	38
Table 6: Administrative Screening Criteria	49
Table 7: Technical Screening Criteria.....	49
Table 8: Past Performance Screening Criteria.....	50
Table 9: Scoring Scale	51
Table 10: Scoring Criteria	53

Attachments

Attachment Number	Title
01	Application Form <i>(requires signature)</i>
02	Project Narrative Form
03	Project Team Form
04	Scope of Work Template
05	Project Schedule
06	Budget
07	CEQA Compliance Form
08	Past Projects Information
09	Commitment and Support Letters Form <i>(requires signature)</i>
10	Measurement and Verification Plan
11	Applicant Declaration <i>(requires signature)</i>
12	Project Readiness Checklist

I: INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of Solicitation

This is a draft document and no applications are being solicited at this time. This draft is intended for public input. A final solicitation will be released (see Section I.D. "Key Activities and Dates") that incorporates public input.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) announces the availability of up to \$46,144,000 less any amounts prioritized for projects receiving federal funding that support eligible critical infrastructure pursuant to Senate Bill 105 (Weiner, Ch. 104, Statutes of 2025), for a competitive grant solicitation through the Proposition 4 (Prop 4) Distributed Electricity Backup Assets (DEBA) Grant Program. The intent of this solicitation is to support the deployment of new distributed energy resources (DERs) that can increase supply or reduce (or shift) load to improve the reliability of the state's electrical grid during extreme events.

Funded projects are expected to deploy new, commercially available, zero-emission DERs that provide capacity in the form of supply, load shifting, or load reduction that is incremental to the state's Resource Adequacy (RA) supplies and existing Strategic Reliability Reserves. Successful projects are expected to execute agreements, begin deployment, and come online quickly to meet the encumbrance deadline (June 30, 2028) and liquidation deadline (June 30, 2030) and be responsive to immediate grid reliability needs. Projects are required to demonstrate incremental capacity and the ability to support grid reliability by selecting a performance pathway most appropriate to the proposed technology type(s).

B. Background

Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (Ting, Chapter 61, Statutes of 2022) created the Strategic Reliability Reserve to support the state's electric grid reliability during extreme events. Public Resources Code (PRC) section 25790(c) states, "As California transitions to a clean energy future and contends with climate impacts and other challenges, sufficient capacity of new and existing generation assets will be required to maintain reliability during extreme events."

As part of the Strategic Reliability Reserve, the DEBA Program provides funding for constructing cleaner and more efficient distributed energy assets that serve as on-call emergency supply or load reduction for the state's electrical grid during extreme events as defined in Public Resources Code section 25790.5(b), such as heat waves. The DEBA Program also supports efficiency upgrades and capacity additions to existing power generators in California to support the state's electrical grid during extreme events. DEBA Program funding was authorized under AB 180 (Ting, Chapter 44, Statutes of 2022), AB 102 (Ting, Chapter 38, Statutes of 2023), AB 106 (Gabriel, Chapter 9,

Statutes of 2024), and AB 107 (Gabriel, Chapter 22, Statutes of 2024) with an overall budget of \$152 million. The first solicitation focused on bulk grid generators, and the CEC issued a Notice of Proposed Awards on April 22, 2024. Nine projects were recommended for funding, totaling up to \$122.8 million for 297 megawatts (MW) of new incremental capacity. As of April 2026, seven of the grant agreements have been approved, totaling 185 MW of new incremental capacity under development.

In November 2024, California voters approved Proposition 4, known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024 (the Climate Bond) which authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10 billion for projects to strengthen communities against climate change. In September 2025, as part of 2025-2026 Budget, SB 105 (Weiner, Chapter 104, Statutes of 2025) 1) appropriated \$46,144,000 to the DEBA Program to fund new clean microgrids, or new non-residential or aggregated residential distributed clean energy and storage projects, and 2) directed that projects receiving federal funding that support critical infrastructure, such as water utilities, shall be prioritized and expedited for funding only if that federal funding is secure and in place.

Additionally, SB 105 directed that 1) no less than \$12.5 million of the funds appropriated for the DEBA Program “shall provide state cost sharing for water utility projects that have received awards from the United States Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program only if that federal funding is secure and in place,” and 2) the CEC “may award these funds [the state cost sharing funds] expeditiously and non-competitively.” Pursuant to SB 105, the CEC is initiating a direct award process in parallel with the release of this competitive solicitation. To provide state cost share for potential qualifying federally awarded projects under the direct award process, CEC plans to set aside \$12.5M to \$23M of the funds allocated by Prop 4 to DEBA to prioritize qualifying direct awards. Depending on the number of qualified applicants and projects selected via the direct award process, any remaining funding appropriated by SB 105 from Prop 4 to the DEBA Program will be made available to this competitive solicitation.

C. Definitions of Keywords

Table 1 provides the words or terms commonly used throughout this manual along with a definition.

Table 1: Definition of Keywords

Word/Term	Definition
Aggregation	Grouping of distributed energy resources and/or loads working as a bundle.
Applicant	An entity that submits an application to this solicitation.
Application	An applicant’s written response to this solicitation.

Word/Term	Definition
Authorized Representative	The person submitting the application who has authority to enter into an agreement with the CEC.
BA	<i>Balancing Authority</i> , the responsible entity that operates a transmission control area.
BTM	<i>Behind-the-Meter</i> energy resources located on the customer's side of the utility meter, including resources connected to a dedicated net generation output meter (NGOM) and participating in virtual net metering (VNEM).
California Native American Tribe	A Native American Tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (Pub. Resources Code, § 21073).
California Tribal Organization	A corporation, association, or group controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by a California Native American tribe that is subject to its laws, the laws of the State of California, or the laws of the United States.
CAM	<i>Commission Agreement Manager</i> , the person designated by the CEC to oversee the performance of an agreement resulting from this solicitation and to serve as the main point of contact for the grant recipient.
CAO	<i>Commission Agreement Officer</i> , the person designated by the CEC to oversee the internal administrative processes and to serve as the main point of contact for solicitation applicants.
CEC	State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission or the <i>California Energy Commission</i> .
CEC funds	<i>CEC funds</i> are DEBA grant funds awarded under this solicitation, also referred to as "grant funds".
CEQA	<i>California Environmental Quality Act</i> , California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 <i>et seq.</i>
CPUC	<i>California Public Utilities Commission</i> , a regulatory agency that regulates privately-owned public utilities in the State of California, including electric power, telecommunications, gas, and water companies.

Word/Term	Definition
DAC	<p><i>Disadvantaged Community</i>. Defined in Public Resources Code section 90100 to mean communities designated as those with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income, as identified by the Climate Bond. Disadvantaged Communities Map: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09</p>
Days	Days refer to calendar days.
DEBA	<i>Distributed Electricity Backup Assets</i> , the source of funding for the projects awarded under this solicitation.
DER	<i>Distributed Energy Resource</i> . For the purposes of this solicitation, “DER” means the following zero-emission resources on the electricity distribution system or behind a customer meter: energy storage, load flexibility enabling technologies, distributed generation technologies, or microgrids.
Dispatch	For the purposes of this solicitation, “dispatch” is the measured generation, discharge, or load impact during an hour in which the DEBA resource is dispatched.
DOE	<i>United States Department of Energy</i>
ECAMS	<i>Energy Commission Agreement Management System</i> , the CEC’s designated electronic application portal.
EEA	<i>Energy Emergency Alert</i> , the California Independent System Operator’s (ISO) formal declaration of an extreme event.
EEA Watch	An <i>Energy Emergency Alert Watch</i> issued by the California ISO when analysis shows all available resources are committed or forecasted to be in use, and energy deficiencies are expected, and market participants are encouraged to offer supplemental energy (California ISO Emergency Notifications Fact Sheet) https://www.caiso.com/documents/emergency-notifications-fact-sheet.pdf .

Word/Term	Definition
Extreme Event	<p>An <i>extreme event</i> is defined in Public Resources Code section 25790.5(b) to mean either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event occurring at a time and place in which weather, climate, or environmental conditions, including temperature, precipitation, drought, fire, or flooding, present a level of risk that would constitute or exceed a one-in-ten event, as referred to by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, including when forecast in advance by a load-serving entity or local publicly owned electric utility. • An event where emergency measures are taken by a California balancing authority, including when forecast in advance by the California balancing authority.
FTM	<i>Front-of-the-meter</i> energy resources that are interconnected on the utility side of a customer meter.
GFO	<i>Grant Funding Opportunity</i> , may be used interchangeably with "solicitation".
Grid Reliability	The provision of an adequate, secure, and stable flow of electricity.
IOU	<i>Investor-owned utility</i> , an electrical corporation as defined in California Public Utilities Code section 218. For purposes of this solicitation, it includes Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Diego Gas and Electric Co., and Southern California Edison Co.
ISO	<i>Independent System Operator</i>
kW	<i>Kilowatt</i>
kWh	<i>Kilowatt-hour</i>
LMP	<i>Locational Marginal Price</i> , the marginal price for energy at the location where the energy is delivered or received and is based on forecasted system conditions and the latest approved real-time security constrained economic dispatch program solution.
Load Reduction	A decrease in electric demand as measured at a customer site relative to a counterfactual baseline. Load reductions include behind-the-meter generation or storage discharge that result in negative demand (discharge) except where otherwise prohibited.
LSE	<i>Load-serving entity</i> , an electric customer's retail supplier or federal power marketing administration.

Word/Term	Definition
MW	<i>Megawatt</i>
MWh	<i>Megawatt-hour</i>
Major Subrecipient	A subrecipient that is budgeted to receive \$100,000 or more of CEC funds, not including any equipment or match funds that may be provided by the subrecipient.
Match Funds	Includes cash or in-kind (non-cash) contributions provided by the applicant, subrecipients, or other parties that will be used in performance of the proposed project. See section I.E. for more information.
NOPA	<i>Notice of Proposed Award</i> , a public notice by CEC staff that identifies proposed grant recipients.
Nonprofit Organization	Defined in Public Resources Code section 90100 to mean a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Performance Pathway	For the purposes of this solicitation, one of four operational methods by which an Applicant can demonstrate the project's ability to meet performance requirements.
Project Manager	The person designated by the applicant to oversee the project and to serve as the main point of contact for the CEC.
Project Partner	A person or entity that contributes financially or otherwise to the project (e.g., match funding, provision of a deployment site), and does not receive CEC funds.
RA	<i>Resource Adequacy</i> , a program administered by the CPUC to ensure the reliability of electric service in California and to incentivize the siting and construction of new resources needed for future grid reliability.
Recipient	A person or entity receiving a grant award under this solicitation. "Recipient" may be used interchangeably with "grant recipient".

Word/Term	Definition
SDAC	<p><i>Severely Disadvantaged Community</i>. Defined in Public Resources Code section 90100 to mean communities designated as those with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income, as identified by the Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09</p>
Solicitation	<p>This entire document, including all attachments, exhibits, addenda, written notices, and questions and answers (“solicitation” may be used interchangeably with “Grant Funding Opportunity” or “GFO”).</p>
Subrecipient	<p>A person or entity that receives grant funds directly from a grant Recipient and is entrusted to make decisions about how to conduct some of the grant’s activities. A Subrecipient’s role involves discretion over grant activities and is not merely just selling goods or services.</p>
Sub-Subrecipient/sub-contractor	<p>Has the same meaning as a Subrecipient except that it receives grant funds from a Subrecipient or any lower tier level of a Sub-Subrecipient/sub-contractor.</p>
State	<p>State of California</p>
Tribe	<p>Defined in Public Resources Code section 90100 to mean a federally recognized Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.</p>
Vendor	<p>A person or entity that sells goods or services to the grant Recipient, Subrecipient, or any lower-tiered level of Sub-Subrecipient, in exchange for some of the grant funds, and does not make decisions about how to perform the grant’s activities. The Vendor’s role is ministerial and does not involve discretion over grant activities.</p>
Vulnerable Population	<p>Defined in Public Resources Code section 90100 to mean a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.</p>

D. Key Activities and Dates

Table 2 lists anticipated key activities, dates, and times for the draft and final solicitation and for agreements resulting from this solicitation. Dates are approximate and subject to change.

Table 2: Key Activities and Dates

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME¹
Draft Solicitation Release (this document)	June 12, 2026	
Draft Solicitation Workshop	June 23, 2026	1:00 p.m.
Deadline to Submit Written Comments on the Draft Solicitation to the DEBA Docket	July 15, 2026	5:00 p.m.
Anticipated Final Solicitation Release	Fall 2026	
Pre-Application Workshop	Two weeks after Final Solicitation release	TBD
Deadline to Submit Applications	60-90 days after Final Solicitation release	11:59 p.m.
Anticipated Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA) Posting Date	Spring 2027	
Anticipated Energy Commission Business Meeting Date (local CEQA process must be complete)	Summer 2027	
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	Summer/Fall 2027	
Encumbrance Deadline (Grant funds must be awarded)	June 30, 2028	
Deadline to Submit CEC-reimbursable invoices	March 2030 (approximately 3 months prior to liquidation deadline)	
Liquidation Deadline (Grant funds must be spent)	June 30, 2030	

¹ Pacific Standard Time or Pacific Daylight Time, whichever is being observed.

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME ¹
Anticipated Agreement Termination Date	Minimum of three (3) program seasons after the project online date	

E. Funding

1. Amount Available and Minimum/Maximum Funding Amounts

A funding amount in the range of \$23.0M to \$46.1M is anticipated to be available for DEBA grants awarded under this competitive solicitation. Table 3 lists the minimum and maximum funding amounts available for an application selected for award, and the minimum match funding required from the awarded applicant.

Table 3: Solicitation Funding Parameters

Available funding	Minimum award	Maximum award	Minimum match funding
\$23,000,000 to \$46,144,000	\$2,000,000	\$8,000,000	25%

The actual available funding within the above range applicable for this competitive solicitation will be dependent on the outcome of the parallel DEBA direct award process conducted by the CEC pursuant to SB 105 (see discussion of “direct award process” in Section I.B. Background). The direct award process is expected to conclude prior to the release of this competitive solicitation.

2. Award Funding and Disbursement Process

Recipients (awarded projects) may request reimbursement from the CEC for eligible project costs. All expenditures, CEC-reimbursable and match, must occur within the approved term of the grant agreement executed between the recipient and the CEC, subject to the following conditions. All CEC-reimbursable expenditures must be incurred, and all related payments including retention must be completed, by the statutory liquidation deadline of June 30, 2030. The CEC is prohibited from disbursing any funds, even if encumbered and described in the budget to Recipients, after June 30, 2030. To meet this requirement, the CEC will establish a payment invoice deadline of March 31, 2030, several months prior to the liquidation deadline to account for necessary processing time to ensure payment of funds. No tasks completed after March 31, 2030, shall be reimbursed by CEC funds. Tasks required after the liquidation deadline because they are material to the satisfactory performance of the grant agreement including monthly and annual performance reporting, progress meetings with CEC staff, and surveys, may be funded by match. After the liquidation date, all remaining unspent CEC funds will be returned to the State of California, and remaining tasks until the Agreement Termination Date should be funded by match. Applicants should account for this in the Project Schedule (Attachment 05).

Payments will be disbursed based on expenditures incurred and supported by invoices and monthly or quarterly reports demonstrating satisfactory and continued progress toward the project's established milestones.

The CEC intends to approve awards up to the amount listed in the Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA). It is the CEC's policy to retain 10 percent from each reimbursement request (e.g., invoice) until the end of the project and the Final Project Report is submitted, or the liquidation date, whichever occurs first, pending confirmation that performance standards as required in the Scope of Work (Attachment 04) of the grant agreement were met. To request final payment, Recipients must timely submit a completed payment request form.

If the CEC determines that any invoiced and paid amounts exceed the actual allowable incurred costs or the project does not meet the performance standards required by the Scope of Work (Attachment 04), the Recipient will repay the amounts to the CEC within thirty (30) days of request or as otherwise agreed by the CEC and the Recipient. If the CEC does not receive such repayments, it will be entitled to take actions including but not limited to withholding further payments to the Recipient and seeking repayment from the Recipient.

3. Allowable Costs

After an award is executed, costs incurred for the following activities are eligible for CEC reimbursement or as the Applicant's match share:

- a. Project pre-engineering and design.
- b. Engineering plans and specifications.
- c. Project installation, construction, modifications, and/or commissioning.
- d. Equipment acquisition.
- e. Warranty and/or maintenance contract costs associated with eligible project cost equipment. The cost of this component is capped at 10% of the total claimed project costs.

The CEC will not reimburse for costs related to land acquisition, environmental assessment or mitigation, or permitting, but this may be counted towards the match share if the expenditure accrues after the NOPA is posted and before the Agreement Termination Date.

4. Unallowable Costs

For the cost of an item to be allowable for reimbursement with CEC funds, it must be included in the executed agreement budget and allowable per the terms and conditions of the resulting agreement. The following are examples of unallowable costs under an agreement resulting from this solicitation. This list is not comprehensive and additional items may be unallowable in accordance with the agreement terms and conditions.

- a. **Discounted or Refunded Equipment Costs** – For example, a claim that equipment costs \$10,000 but the grant recipient only pays \$6,000 due to

some “special” discount. The difference of \$4,000 is not an allowable cost share expense. Another example is if the grant recipient actually pays \$10,000 but the vendor refunds \$4,000 – only the net \$6,000 is an allowable item of cost.

- b. **Solar Photovoltaic Panels and Wind Turbines** – Applicants are allowed to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and/or wind turbines for onsite generation if paired with an energy storage system. However, costs for the solar PV panels and wind turbines are not allowable, therefore the CEC will not reimburse Applicants for those items. In addition, costs for solar PV and wind turbines are not allowable for match share.
- c. **Permitting Costs** – CEC will not reimburse expenditures for permitting or insurance.
- d. **Environmental Mitigation Requirements or Compliance Obligations Imposed by Law** – Public Resources Code section 90105 requires that CEC funds shall not be expended to fulfill any environmental mitigation requirements or compliance obligations imposed by law.

5. Match Funding Requirement

Match funding is required in the amount of at least 25 percent of requested CEC funds. (Example: A project requesting \$10,000,000 in CEC funding must contribute an additional minimum of \$2,500,000 in match funds).

The sum of the DEBA award, applicable tax credits, and other financial support in the form of grants, loans, and rebates must not exceed 100% of the total eligible project cost.

“Match funding” or “match share” means cash or in-kind (non-cash) contributions provided by the Applicant/Recipient, subrecipients, or other parties that will be used in performance of the proposed project.

Definitions of “match funding” categories are listed below:

- “Cash” match means funds that are in the grant recipient’s possession or proposed by a match partner and clearly identified in a support letter, and are reserved for the proposed project, meaning that they have not been committed for use or pledged as match for any other project. Cash match can include funding awards earned or received from other agencies for the proposed technologies or study (but not for the identical work). Proof that the funds exist as cash is required. Cash match will be considered more favorably than in-kind contributions during the scoring phase of the application evaluation process.
- “In-Kind” match can be in the form of goods or services that are not reimbursed with CEC funds such as labor (if reasonable and justified), donated space, existing equipment, existing supplies, services provided by a third-party or subrecipient, and other expendable property in support of the project. The value of in-kind match is based on the fair market value of the goods and services provided at the time it is

claimed as match. The value of existing equipment must be prorated for its use in the project and depreciated or amortized over the term of the project using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Labor rates for hours donated by non-employees who are not paid for their time must be consistent with those paid for similar work. Cost allocations must be reasonable and allocable to the proposed project. In-kind match share must be included in the agreement budget.

The grant recipient is expected to maintain appropriate documentation to support the fair market value of all in-kind match, including services and materials donated by third parties or major subrecipients.

Match share expenditures have the following requirements:

- a. All match share expenditures must conform to the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the resulting grant agreement.
- b. Match funds must be spent only during the agreement term, either before or concurrently with CEC funds or in accordance with an approved Match Fund Spending Plan. Match funds also must be reported in invoices submitted to the CEC.
- c. All applicants providing match funds must submit commitment letters **at the time of application** that: (1) identify the source(s) of the funds; (2) justify the dollar value claimed; (3) provide an unqualified (i.e., without reservation or limitation) commitment that guarantees the availability of the funds for the project; and (4) provide a strategy for replacing the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost. Please see Attachment 09, Commitment and Support Letter Form.
- d. Any match pledged in an application must be consistent. For example, in the ECAMS system and in the Budget Attachment applicants will be asked to enter the project's total match funding. The amounts listed in those places should be consistent with the amount or dollar value described in the commitment letter(s) (e.g., if \$5,000 "cash in hand" funds are pledged in a commitment letter, the match amounts entered in the ECAMS system and in the Budget must match this amount). If the amounts listed in an application are inconsistent, the total amount pledged in the commitment letter(s) will be considered for match funding points.
- e. Equipment may count as match funds as long as the value of the contribution is based on documented market values or book values, prorated for its use in the project, and depreciated or amortized over the term of the project using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

6. Match Share Restrictions

- a. Other Sources of CEC Funding – Other sources of CEC funding may not be claimed as match share. This includes block grants funded by the CEC.

- b. Property Not Owned by the Applicant – Donated property may be claimed as match based on the fair market value of renting or leasing the property. Fair market value is based on rental costs of comparable property (if any), market conditions in the area, alternatives available and the type, life expectancy, condition, and value of the property.
- c. Existing Property Owned by the Grant Recipient – Applicants may use the property’s depreciation expense as a method to allocate the value of the property to the project. Valuation will need to be documented to support the initial acquisition costs as well as the method of depreciation.
- d. Valuation of Land – Land cannot be depreciated. If the value of land is claimed as match, the Applicant must provide documentation to support a fair market value for the use of the land (i.e., rent or lease cost) for the time period it is used. Appraised value of land cannot be used since this represents the full value of the land if it is sold which includes value beyond the term of the project.
- e. Property Owned by a Related Party – Related parties are individuals or other entities that are able to control or substantially influence the actions of the Applicant and include spouses, board members, family members of principals or employees of the Applicant as well as property owned by principals/employees of the Applicant. Because an agreement between an Applicant and a related party is a “less than arms-length” transaction, Applicants must disclose the relationship between the Applicant and the related party and be able to support the fair market value of property that is claimed as match.
- f. If CEC funds are used to reimburse lease/rental payments for property owned by a related party, the Applicant can only claim the lesser of fair market value or actual lease payments, regardless of lease agreement terms.
- g. Prorated Value of Property – The allowable claimed value of property must be prorated based on the percentage the property is used for the project. For example, if only half of a building is being used for the project, then only 50% of the monthly fair market value of the entire building can be claimed as match while the building is being used for the project.
- h. Documentation – If selected for an award, all claimed match share expenditures must be adequately documented to CEC during the agreement invoicing process which may include but is not limited to: the fair market value of existing property, methodology to allocate existing property on a prorated basis, lease agreements, and other appropriate documentation.

7. Proposition 4 Funding Restrictions

Public Resources Code section 94510 requires:

(a) The proportion of any asset funded pursuant to this section or Section 94520 or 94530 shall be funded without return on equity for the lifetime of the proportion of that asset that would have otherwise been borne by ratepayers.

(b) The proportion of any projects funded pursuant to this section or Section 94520 or 94530 shall be excluded from the ratebase, and no costs may be collected from ratepayers.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that bond moneys shall not be used for shareholder incentives or profits for shareholders of private corporations.

Applications must certify the above provisions will be adhered to and propose a clear and detailed accounting methodology for meeting the above requirements.

8. Change in Funding Amount

Along with any other rights and remedies available to it, the CEC reserves the right to:

- Increase or decrease the available funding and the minimum/maximum grant award amounts described in this section.
- Allocate any additional or unawarded funds to passing applications, in rank order.
- Reduce funding to an appropriate amount if the budgeted funds do not provide full funding for agreements. In this event, the proposed grant recipient and Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) will attempt to reach agreement on a reduced Scope of Work commensurate with available funding.

F. Notice of Pre-Application Workshop

CEC staff will hold one remote Draft Solicitation Workshop to answer questions and receive feedback on this draft. Date and time to be announced in the Notice of Public Workshop.

Staff will hold one remote Pre-Application Workshop after the Final Solicitation is released to discuss this solicitation with potential applicants. Date and time to be announced in the Final Solicitation.

G. Questions and Communication Restrictions

After the final version of this Solicitation is released, all questions must be directed to the Commission Agreement Officer (CAO). Contact information will be provided in the Final Solicitation.

The questions and answers from the Pre-Application Workshop will be posted on the [CEC's solicitations website](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations>.

Questions received after the deadline may be answered at the CEC's discretion. Non-technical questions (e.g., questions concerning application format requirements or attachment instructions) may be submitted to the CAO at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline date.

Any verbal communication with a CEC employee concerning this solicitation is not binding on the State and shall in no way alter a specification, term, or condition of the solicitation. All communication must be directed in writing to the CAO assigned to this solicitation.

H. Contact Information

DEBA-specific contact information and resources are listed below:

- DEBA Webpage and Email Subscription Topic:
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/distributed-electricity-backup-assets-program>
- DEBA Docket ([22-RENEW-01](#)):
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-RENEW-01>
- DEBA General Inquiries: DEBA@energy.ca.gov

I. Agreement Contingent on Funding Availability

Without limitation to any other of CEC's rights and remedies, if any state funds used for any agreement resulting from this solicitation become unavailable, reduced, and/or deleted for any reason, the CEC may in its sole discretion: 1) cancel agreements with no liability occurring to the CEC and the state of California; or 2) offer an agreement amendment to the recipient to reflect a reduced amount of funds. Should CEC choose to cancel any agreement, CEC and the State of California shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to the agreement recipient, any subrecipients, and any vendors; nor to furnish any other consideration under any agreement resulting from this solicitation; and the recipient shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of such an agreement.

II: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Applicant Requirements

1. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are a public agency, local agency, nonprofit organization, special district, joint powers authority, tribe, public utility, local publicly owned utility, or mutual water company². For applications submitted jointly by multiple Eligible Applicants, only one entity can be the primary Applicant and that entity must be identified as the primary Applicant.

An Eligible Applicant may submit multiple applications using a combination of eligible technologies (See Section II.B.2. "Eligible Technologies"). If multiple applications are submitted, each application must be for either a different combination of eligible technology equipment to be installed or different identifiable project sites. Multiple applications involving aggregations of similar technologies across multiple sites are not permitted.

The Applicant will be the entity responsible for ensuring the project's assets are operated consistent with the performance requirements described in Section II.B.5 "Performance Requirements" and must ensure that any award payments are disbursed to project partners, third parties, and/or vendors as appropriate. The development, installation, and operation of the deployed DERs may be contracted out to a private entity as a subrecipient.

A public agency does not need a governing board resolution to apply. However, a public agency that receives funding under this solicitation must provide an authorizing resolution approved by its governing authority prior to entering into an agreement with CEC. The resolution must designate the authorized representative to sign the agreement with CEC and attest to the completion of all required permitting and/or CEQA determinations applicable to the project.

2. Terms and Conditions

Each grant agreement resulting from this solicitation will include terms and conditions that set forth the grant recipient's rights and responsibilities. By signing Attachment 11 Applicant Declarations, each Applicant agrees to enter into an agreement with the CEC to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions that correspond to its organization and project group, without negotiation. This includes (1) University of California and California State University terms and conditions; or (2) Standard terms and conditions located on the [CEC's funding resources web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources); <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources>; and (3) Special

² [Senate Bill 867](#) (Allen, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024), Public Resources Code section 90110. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB867.

Terms and Conditions for DEBA projects that may be published with the Final Solicitation.

Failure to agree to the terms and conditions by taking actions such as failing to provide the required authorizations and certifications or indicating that acceptance of the award is based on modification of the terms may result in rejection of the application.

Applicants must read the terms and conditions carefully before applying.

The CEC reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions prior to executing grant agreements. The terms and conditions included in this solicitation are subject to change based on any project-specific special terms and conditions the CEC deems appropriate for a particular award.

3. Tribal Requirements

If a California Native American Tribe (Tribe) or a California Tribal Organization serving a California Native American Tribe (Tribal Organization) with sovereign immunity is listed as a proposed awardee in the Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA), before bringing the proposed award to a Business Meeting, CEC staff must receive (a) resolution(s) or other authorizing document(s) by the governing body of the Tribe or Tribal Organization which:

- a. Authorizes the Tribe or Tribal Organization to enter into the proposed agreement, including accepting the Special Terms and Conditions for California Native American Tribes and California Tribal Organizations Serving California Native American Tribes with Sovereign Immunity, including the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Jurisdiction; and
- b. Approves a limited waiver of tribal sovereign immunity, to the extent that any such sovereign immunity exists, for any and all claims by the CEC that may arise relating to this Agreement and any remedies therefore under the laws of the State of California and the laws of the United States of America; and
- c. Consents to personal jurisdiction over the Tribe or Tribal Organization, and consents to venue in any court of the State of California and any federal court sitting in the State of California; and waives any and all claim that the Tribe or Tribal Organization may have, including without limitation that such court is an inconvenient forum, for the purposes of any proceeding related to this Agreement; and, with respect to a proceeding in a court of the State of California or a federal court sitting in the State of California, any requirement that tribal remedies must be exhausted; and
- d. Delegates authority to execute the proposed agreement to an appropriate individual.

The above requirements may be provided in one or more documents. The document(s) will be included as an exhibit to the resulting grant agreement.

4. Delay in award

Any delay in the Tribe or Tribal Organization's ability to provide the documentation specified in Section II.A.3 "Tribal Requirements" above may result in delayed award of the grant agreement.

5. Reservation of Right to Cancel Proposed Award

Funds available under this solicitation have encumbrance deadlines which the CEC must meet to avoid expiration of the funds. In addition to any other rights reserved to it under this solicitation or that it otherwise has, the CEC reserves the right to cancel a proposed award if it determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that the documentation described above would likely not be provided prior to an encumbrance deadline, and that the CEC's ability to meet its encumbrance deadline may thereby be jeopardized. In this instance, the CEC may cancel the proposed award and may award funds to the next highest scoring Applicant.

6. California Secretary of State Registration

To be named as a recipient, subrecipient (at any level), subcontractor, or vendor in a grant agreement, all corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs) and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to the project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting. If any such entity named in an application is not registered with the California Secretary of State at the time of application submittal, the applicant is encouraged to contact the Secretary of State's Office, as applicable, as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project(s) (should the application be proposed for funding). Applicants should provide the exact legal names of all entities included in their applications, along with any fictitious business names. Fictitious business names must be currently valid, i.e., not expired with the Secretary of State. As part of the CEC's due diligence, particularly during the agreement development phase, CEC staff may request the supporting documentation regarding the above registration requirements.

For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Office via its website at www.sos.ca.gov. Sole proprietors do not have to be registered with the California Secretary of State. However, the local government may require a business license and if using a fictitious business name, registration of the name may be required. Sole proprietors must be able to provide evidence of required licenses and/or registration with the appropriate local government, or evidence that such licenses and/or registration is not required, to the CEC prior to the project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting.

B. Project Requirements

1. Location and Site

All proposed projects must be located in California, with the installed DER equipment connected to the distribution grid of a California utility. Behind-the-meter (BTM) or front-of-the-meter (FTM) projects are eligible. Projects serving non-residential and/or aggregated residential end users are eligible.

Applicants may propose DER equipment installation at a single site or multiple distinct sites. For BTM non-residential projects or FTM projects, the site(s) must be under the Applicant's control at the time of application submission. If an Applicant proposes multiple, geographically distinct sites within a single application, each site will be classified as a "subproject" for the purposes of completing environmental review.

Applicants proposing BTM non-residential projects or FTM projects must describe and submit documentation of verified site control for the proposed project (including any geographically distinct subprojects, if applicable) including but not limited to an executed lease agreement, executed host site agreement, recorded easement, or proof of property. If a project partner is providing the site, a Letter of Commitment is required indicating plan and timeline for site ownership, leases, or access rights (see Attachment 09). Submitted documentation, including Letters of Commitment, should be marked as completed in the Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12).

Applications involving residential sites are not subject to site identification requirements at the time of application submission. However, the Applicant should describe how residential sites would be identified and qualified for installing proposed equipment.

2. Eligible Technologies

Eligible technologies must be new, zero-emission DERs that are commercially available (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 9 or greater). A project proposed in an application can consist of one or more eligible technologies listed below in this section, subject to performance pathways requirements (see Section II.B.5).

Examples of eligible technologies include but are not limited to:

a. Energy Storage.

- Battery energy storage system (BESS) storing energy as chemical energy
- Thermal energy storage (TES)
- Other mechanical or gravitational storage equipment, such as pumped hydroelectric
- BESS as part of vehicle-grid integration (VGI) infrastructure, excluding equipment included in the vehicle

b. Load Flexibility Enabling Technologies. Automation and communication technologies that enable load flexibility.

- Smart thermostats and other Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) controls
 - Water heater controllers
 - Advanced motor controls like variable frequency drives
 - Vehicle-grid integration (VGI) infrastructure used for bidirectional charging, excluding equipment on the vehicle
- c. **Distributed Generation (DG) Technologies.** Zero-emission generation technologies that generate electricity at or near the point of use.
- Waste heat-to-power
- d. **Microgrids**³. Equipment necessary to manage and coordinate BTM or FTM loads and generation resources in grid-tied or island mode, such as a microgrid controller.

3. Ineligible Technologies

The following technologies are not eligible for CEC reimbursement or as part of the Applicant's match share:

- a. Projects relying on occupant behavioral changes
- b. Diesel generators regardless of fuel type (diesel, biodiesel, renewable diesel or a combination thereof)
- c. Variable renewable resources, such as solar photovoltaic panels (including community solar) and wind turbines
- d. Load-only appliances, such as: electric water heaters, pool pumps, HVAC, Electric Vehicles (EV) or EV batteries, etc.
- e. Distributed generation technologies that i) generate electricity by converting chemical fuel at or near the point of use and ii) are not zero-emissions (including during fuel production/transport/storage or power generation)

4. Project Specifications

a. Project Capacity and Duration

All applications must nominate the proposed project's incremental capacity (i.e., nominated capacity), the maximum duration (in hours) the nominated capacity can be sustained (full duration), that will be committed to improving grid reliability in accordance with a proposed performance pathway (as discussed in Section II.B.5).

³ "Microgrid" is defined in Public Utilities Code § 8370(d): <https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-puc/division-4-1/chapter-4-5/section-8370/>

The nominated capacity⁴ can be in the form of supply, load shift, or load reduction and must be incremental to the state’s resource adequacy (RA) supplies and existing Strategic Reliability Reserves (SRR). The project must be able to sustain the power output or load shift/reduction at the nominated capacity value for a minimum of two hours.

Proposals will be assessed on the basis of “rated” capacity to evaluate proposed projects with varying durations of nominated capacity. The rated capacity of the project is the average power output or load shift/reduction level that can be sustained over a 4-hour period. A project with a nominated capacity that can be maintained for a duration of less than 4 hours will be normalized to the rated capacity for the purpose of evaluation. For a project with a nominated capacity level that can be maintained for 4 or more hours, the nominated and rated capacity will be considered equal. For example, a storage project with 20 MW nominated power capacity and storage capacity of 40 megawatt-hours (MWh) and designed to discharge continuously at the nominated power level for two hours would be normalized to a rated capacity of 10 MW.

b. Project Life

The application must also indicate the project’s expected life (lifespan in number of years) and explain whether the project’s committed capacity will 1) be sustained for the full duration over the lifespan, or 2) decline over time. In the former case, the application should describe any measures or design features used to ensure that the committed capacity/duration can be sustained over the project’s lifespan (for example, installed battery oversized relative to committed capacity, planned replacement of battery modules, etc.); in the latter case, the application should indicate the expected average annual degradation rate. Applications should describe product warranties, as applicable, to support the proposed project’s lifespan and capacity/duration commitments.

5. Performance Requirements

Applications must select one of the four performance pathways described below to demonstrate the ability of the project to deliver the nominated capacity (for the full duration) when dispatched. Projects must perform consistent with the selected performance pathway and dispatch requirements (described below) for a term of three program seasons (May 1 through October 31).

Only one performance pathway per proposed application may be elected, regardless of whether the application proposes a single site or multiple subprojects at separate sites.

⁴ If a portion of the installed project capacity is entirely reserved to back up a site during a grid outage, that portion of the installed project capacity should not be included in the nominated capacity.

A project and its subprojects in a single application can consist of one or more eligible technologies listed in Section II.B.2 provided they can be dispatched in response to and measured using signals or triggers consistent with the elected performance pathway.

Applicants submitting multiple applications for distinct projects may select different performance pathways for each distinct application provided that each application is limited to a single pathway.

Project resources responding to the same aggregate pricing node signal and that have the same nominated capacity duration can be considered to be part of a distinct aggregation. A project may comprise multiple aggregations.

The available performance pathways are:

Pathway 1: Market-Integrated: Dispatch in response to the applicable California Balancing Authority (BA) market instructions.

Pathway 2: Market-Aware: Dispatch in response to the applicable BA’s market event (as defined below).

Pathway 3: Hourly Dynamic Rate: Dispatch in response to an hourly dynamic retail rate tariff (as described below).

Pathway 4: Daily Dispatch: Dispatch daily in designated hours.

(see Section II.B.5.e “Performance Pathways” below for a description of each pathway).

Across all performance pathways, dispatch may refer to power output (for example, through generation or discharge) or load reduction/shift, consistent with the characteristics of the site DER resource or resources. Power output may be consumed on-site, exported to the distribution grid, or a combination of both.

In some cases, depending on the type of project (in terms of the project location relative to the utility meter and technology type), a specific pathway may be open to the project but closed to others. See Table 4 “Available Performance Pathways vs. Project Type” (for description of Project Type technologies, refer to Section II.B.2).

Table 4. Available Performance Pathways vs. Project Type

	Front-of-the-Meter Eligible Technologies	Behind-the-Meter Storage ⁵	Behind-the-Meter Distributed Generation	Behind-the-Meter Load Flex
Pathway 1: Market-Integrated Dispatch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

⁵ Storage connected under Rule 21 but without additional customer load at the site (for example, in a community solar and storage installation) is considered BTM for the purpose of this solicitation.

	Front-of-the-Meter Eligible Technologies	Behind-the-Meter Storage ⁵	Behind-the-Meter Distributed Generation	Behind-the-Meter Load Flex
Pathway 2: Market-Aware Dispatch	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Yes
Pathway 3: Hourly Dynamic Pricing Dispatch	Not Available	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pathway 4: Daily Dispatch	Not Available	Yes	Yes	Yes

For all performance pathways, project performance will be determined by measuring demonstrated capacity (see II.B.6 “Measurement and Verification”) achieved by the project during the applicable Measurement Hours (see Section II.B.5.c “Measurement Hours” below).

Details on dispatch requirements, program events, measurement hours selected to measure project performance, and dual compensation restrictions applicable to all performance pathways are provided below, followed by a description of the four performance pathways.

a. Dispatch Requirements

Project operators are expected to make the project resource(s) nominated capacity available every day during Program Hours (or “program window” and defined as the five hours between 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) for a full duration dispatch, consistent with the selected pathway requirements. The project must be dispatched in response to all program events (as defined below).

b. Program Events

A program event is triggered in response to a mix of Energy Emergency Alerts (EEAs), market events, or test events as described below, depending on the host BA. A program event (including test event) dispatch may last from one hour to up to the project’s full duration. At least one program event dispatch of the project’s nominated capacity per month during the program year for a duration equal to the project’s full duration is required.

Program events may be day-ahead events (market or EEAs), day-of events (EEAs), or required test events. The specific number of test events and characteristics of the test event requirements may be revised during the grant agreement development process in collaboration with the CAM.

Project resources located in a California ISO BA

A market event is triggered when the California ISO energy market price exceeds a specified threshold. The market price is defined as the California ISO *day-ahead* LMP at the aggregate pricing node for the applicable utility distribution company default load aggregation point (DLAP) in which the project's host site is located, or Path 15 zone for POUs.⁶

The market price trigger for market events is set at \$200/MWh.

More details on program events are described below:

1. **Day-Ahead Events (market or EEAs):** A day-ahead event is triggered within the hours that meet either of two criteria within the Program Hours (or program window). These criteria are:
 - a. **Absolute Price Trigger:** The market price must be greater than or equal to the specified market price trigger (depending on the resource type as provided above). If multiple hours within the program window meet the absolute price trigger but are not consecutive, the hour or hours in between shall also be considered to meet this criterion.
 - b. **Day-Ahead Emergency Trigger:** If an EEA Watch or above is called for the following day by the host BA, the emergency trigger shall take effect at the beginning of the program window and last until the end of the program window.

If no hours within the program window meet any of the above criteria, there is no day-ahead program event.

If the number of hours where the market price meets the market price trigger, described above, exceeds the project's full duration, only those consecutive hours with the highest mean market price shall be considered event hours. If the highest mean consecutive hourly market price applies to more than one set of hours (that is, if there is a tie), the program event will be the first (that is, earliest) set of hours meeting these conditions. If fewer hours than the project's full duration meet or exceed the market price trigger, only those hours will count toward performance.

For example, in the case of a market event, the performance of a 3-hour resource will be measured over the three highest-priced

⁶ The distribution utilities and corresponding aggregate pricing node IDs are Pacific Gas and Electric ("DLAP_PGAE-APND"), Southern California Edison ("DLAP_SCE-APND"), San Diego Gas & Electric ("DLAP_SDGE-APND"), and the POUs of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Pasadena, Riverside, and Vernon (SP15, "TH_SP15_GEN-APND").

consecutive hours that meet or exceed the market price trigger (as set above) during the program window. If more than three hours meet or exceed the market price trigger during this window on a given day, only the three highest-priced consecutive hours will count toward performance. If fewer than three hours meet or exceed the market price trigger, only those hours will count toward performance.

2. **Day-of Events (EEAs):** If an EEA Watch or above is issued for the same day by the host BA, a day-of emergency triggered event shall take effect at the later of the notice issued time rounded to the nearest hour, the notice start time rounded to the nearest hour, and 4:00 p.m., and last no later than 9:00 p.m. Day-of event triggers shall not change day-ahead event hours. If a day-of event is called following a partial-duration day-ahead event, the day-of event hours must be consecutive with the day-ahead event hours. Subject to this constraint, only the consecutive hours of the resource duration with the highest mean market price shall be considered event hours, with ties in market price going to the earlier set of hours. Following the issuance of the first (earliest) day-of EEA Watch or above, the issuance of any subsequent day-of EEAs on the same day shall not supersede or change the day-of event hours.
3. **Test Events:** In the absence of a full duration day-ahead event (as described above) in any month during the program year, a full duration dispatch must be conducted as a test event by the project operator. On the day selected for the test event, the project dispatch must occur during the hours with the highest consecutive hourly market prices (or load), as described above, within the Program Hours.

Project resources located in other BAs

A program event is triggered in response to a mix of EEAs and market events.

A market event is triggered when the load (or net load) exceeds a specified threshold. The high load (or net load) trigger levels for market events will be set by the host BA.

Other guidelines as described above for day-ahead and day-of events apply, with "load (net load)" replacing "market price".

c. Measurement Hours

As noted earlier, the project's demonstrated capacity for the selected performance pathway will be measured during the applicable Measurement Hours.

In each program year, the Measurement Hours will be a subset of Program Hours.

The Measurement Hours utilized for the demonstrated capacity calculation for all pathways include:

1. Any required test events (as applicable for the pathway), plus
2. Any hours in which a day-ahead EEA (or EEA Watch) is called by the host BA, as applicable, plus
3. All day-ahead market events (as described above) up to a maximum of the top 48 hours with the:
 - a) Highest *day-ahead* locational marginal prices (LMPs) over the applicable pricing node (or aggregate pricing node as applicable) for resources located within the California ISO BA or
 - b) Highest load (net load) for resources located in other BAs, as set by the project's host BA.

The EEA or EEA Watch hours included in the Measurement Hours will be selected from the Program Hours, consistent with the project's full duration.

It is the project operator's responsibility to ensure that the project resources are dispatched during all hours selected for the Measurement Hours. Resources that do not receive a dispatch during a Measurement Hour shall be assigned a performance value of 0 MW during that Measurement Hour.

d. Dual Compensation Prohibition

A recipient is prohibited from receiving compensation for incremental performance (also referred to as "demonstrated capacity") attributed to the project resources funded by the DEBA program. That is, the recipient's DEBA-funded resource should not receive compensation through any other utility, CCA, load-serving entity (LSE), or state program designed to procure demand response, net load reduction, or grid services during an interval that coincides or overlaps with a DEBA program event, except the utility or LSE rate plan applicable to the project resource.

e. Performance Pathways

The four performance pathways available, as applicable, for a project to demonstrate its ability to deliver the nominated capacity when dispatched are described here.

Pathway 1: Market-Integrated Dispatch

This pathway is open for all resource types. Front-of-the-meter (FTM) resources, such as those connected under the Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff (WDAT), must select this pathway. Storage connected under Rule 21 but without additional customer load at the site (for example, in a community solar and storage installation) is not considered FTM for the purpose of this solicitation and is not required to elect Pathway 1.

Applicants electing this pathway are expected to make the project resource(s) nominated capacity available on a day-ahead and real-time basis to the host California BA for economic and exceptional dispatch, consistent with the BA requirements applicable to the resource's operational capabilities.

Under this pathway, the project resources within the California ISO must bid for or self-schedule in at least four consecutive hours during Program Hours in the day-ahead and

real-time markets and dispatch per market instructions. Similarly, resources connected in non-ISO territories must be available for dispatch subject to the rules of the host BA.

It is the project operator's responsibility to ensure that the bidding or self-scheduling is such that the project resources are dispatched in the market to meet the monthly dispatch requirement and for all program events. Resources that do not receive a dispatch for any reason, including failure to bid or unutilized bids, shall be assigned a performance value of 0 MW during the applicable Measurement Hours.

Pathway 2: Market-Aware Dispatch

This pathway is only open to BTM load flexibility resources.

Pathway 3: Hourly Dynamic Pricing Dispatch

This pathway is open to any resource type, except FTM resources connected under WDAT, and is subject to tariff availability in the host customer's service area.

Applicants electing this pathway must enroll resources in an hourly dynamic pricing tariff that reflects hourly marginal costs based on current or forecasted wholesale energy market prices and other grid capacity utilization levels, such as the hourly dynamic rates offered in Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) or Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) pilots based on CPUC's proposed California Flexible Unified Signal for Energy (CalFUSE) framework.⁷

Pathway 4: Daily Dispatch

This pathway is open to any resource type, except FTM resources connected under WDAT.

Applicants electing this pathway must dispatch the project resources daily in designated consecutive hours equal to at minimum four hours, or the project's full duration if the full duration is less than four hours, during the Program Hours.

6. Measurement and Verification

All Applicants must submit a Measurement and Verification (M&V) Plan that describes planning and execution of data collection and data analysis of project operations that will enable measurement and evaluation of the project's performance and benefits (see Attachment 10 for further details). The activities listed in the Applicant's proposed M&V Plan must align with the Scope of Work (Attachment 04), Project Schedule (Attachment 05), and the Project Narrative (Attachment 02).

The M&V Plan must describe how dispatch performance and demonstrated capacity will be measured.

⁷ CPUC Energy Division Staff. 2022. "Advanced Strategies for Demand Flexibility Management and Customer DER Compensation." <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/demand-response/demand-response-workshops/advanced-der---demand-flexibility-management/ed-white-paper---advanced-strategies-for-demand-flexibility-management.pdf>.

a. Dispatch Performance

Dispatch performance of a DEBA resource is the measured generation, discharge, or load impact during an hour in which the resource is dispatched, in time increments noted in the Measurement and Verification Plan (Attachment 10). Dispatch performance is measured, and data provided, first at each individual DER asset, then aggregated up to the site, and then summed across all sites comprising the project (as applicable) to determine overall performance.

Applicants must provide details on the proposed methodology for measuring dispatch performance that is relevant and accurate for the technology type(s) being used. Please review the M&V Plan (Attachment 10) for more detailed instructions.

When applicable, Applicants must document that the selected counterfactual baseline approach to determine dispatch performance during the dispatch hours is the best method available⁸ and include additional details such as same-day adjustments. Subject to CEC staff approval, the counterfactual baseline approach may be changed following the execution of the grant agreement if a more accurate approach becomes available.

b. Demonstrated Capacity

The annualized demonstrated capacity will be determined by the weighted average of measured hourly dispatch performance for non-weather-sensitive resources, and by the weighted regression of hourly dispatch performance (or load impacts) as a function of temperature for weather-sensitive resources. Non-weather-sensitive resources are assumed to include electric storage resources, and weather-sensitive resources are assumed to include thermal energy storage and load flexibility resources, unless otherwise specified by the Applicant in the M&V Plan.

Non-Weather-Sensitive Resources

The annual demonstrated capacity (DC) in the participation year (γ) for a non-weather-sensitive resource is defined as the weighted average of the hourly dispatch performance, where the weights in hour h are given by the product of the applicable hourly market price (LMP_h) and an hourly emergency event multiplier (EEM_h) across the N Measurement Hours in participation year γ :

$$DC_{\gamma} = \frac{\sum_{h=1}^N Performance_h LMP_h EEM_h}{\sum_{h=1}^N LMP_h EEM_h}$$

The hourly EEM_h is defined as 2 if any part of the hour h is subject to an EEA or EEA Watch, and 1 otherwise.

⁸ More information on counterfactual baselines can be found here:
<https://www.caiso.com/Documents/2017BaselineAccuracyWorkGroupFinalProposalNexant.pdf>.

The hourly $Performance_h$ is defined by the Applicant as appropriate for the proposed project to represent the power output or load reduction/shift achieved by a project during the dispatch hour h .

Weather-Sensitive Resources

The annual demonstrated capacity for weather-sensitive resources may account for the temperature-dependent performance by applying a weighted least squares regression, using the same hourly market price (LMP) and hourly EEM weights as for non-weather-sensitive resources. Weather-sensitive demonstrated capacity will be determined by the value of the regression at the maximum temperature experienced by the resource within the program hours or a predetermined planning temperature representing a typical annual maximum temperature within the program hours, whichever is higher. Applicants with temperature-dependent demonstrated capacity values must submit additional details including weather data sources, change points, temperature metrics related to the program hours (for example, daily high or daily average), methodology for determining the planning temperature, or a subset of these as appropriate.

7. Reporting Requirements

Please review the M&V Plan (Attachment 10) for detailed instructions on required Measurement & Verification data to be collected and reported on.

Please review the Scope of Work (Attachment 04) for detailed instructions on the following required reports that awarded recipients must develop and submit:

- Progress Reports on site(s) construction, operations, and performance, as well as any direct and meaningful benefits provided to Vulnerable Populations or (Severely) Disadvantaged Communities, to the CAM.
- Annual Evaluation of Project Performance Report at the end of each calendar year that the asset(s) participate in the DEBA Program.
- Final Report at the conclusion of the agreement term.

If applicable, projects will be required to submit verification of compliance with regulations adopted pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 38530) of, and Part 5 (commencing with Section 38570) of, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code), including, but not limited to, the mandatory reporting of emissions of greenhouse gases and market-based compliance mechanism as part of their Annual Evaluation of Project Performance Report.

Due to the limited time available for project operations under the statutory liquidation deadline (June 30, 2030) and the need for CEC to collect performance data on state-funded projects, awarded projects will be required to continue all tasks required for the satisfactory performance of the agreement beyond the liquidation deadline. These tasks include, but are not limited to, monthly performance data reporting, regular meetings with CEC staff, and submission of Annual Evaluation of Project Performance Reports to the CEC, for a minimum of three program seasons after the project online date, defined

as the date the project is considered active and operational consistent with the selected performance pathway. The Recipient shall notify the CEC, in writing, of the project online date.

Note that no tasks completed after March 31, 2030, shall be reimbursed by CEC funds (see Section I.E.2 "Award Funding and Disbursement Process" for details). If described in the Budget (Attachment 06) the Applicant may propose to count the costs of these tasks as match funds.

8. Proposition 4 Directed Priorities

Proposition 4 requires that administering agencies give priority to the below listed elements. For the purposes of this solicitation, priority will be assessed in the form of preference points, or additional points, in the evaluation criteria.

a. Match Funding

Preference points are available for projects that exceed the minimum required match funding, leveraging private, federal, and local funding to produce the greatest public benefit⁹.

b. Vulnerable Populations and (Severely) Disadvantaged Communities

Preference points are available for projects that demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to:

- Vulnerable Populations, including tribes;
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs); or
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs).

See Section I.C. "Definitions of Keywords" for full definitions.

Examples of benefits include, but are not limited to:

1. Creating good local jobs with fair wages, benefits, and job training;
2. Helping regions build capacity to design and deliver strong, community-led projects;
3. Supporting tribal stewardship (which can include tribal access to lands, natural resources, and culturally important places; collaboration between tribes and other entities to share management and responsibilities of a given area or set of natural resources; and ancestral land return);
4. Expanding education and awareness through partnerships with community groups, schools, nonprofits, and tribal organizations;
5. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help slow climate change;

⁹ [Senate Bill 867](#) (Allen, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024), Public Resources Code section 90050. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB867.

6. Improving air quality to protect public health, especially in communities overburdened by air pollution;
7. Strengthening energy systems to be cleaner, more reliable, and resilient.

A project's benefits are considered meaningful and direct to a (S)DAC or vulnerable population if the project ensures the creation of a direct, tangible, and substantial benefits to individuals of the (S)DAC or vulnerable population that would not have materialized without its implementation.

To determine meaningful and direct benefits, Applicants should follow the guidance in the "Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment: 2024 Climate Bond" published by the California Natural Resources Agency: <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Bonds/Prop-4/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>.

Applicants may determine communities receiving meaningful and direct benefits by using the following tools developed for Proposition 4:

- **Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map:**
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09>

For the purposes of this solicitation, when using the Climate Bond DAC Map, areas with at least one comparison meeting the criteria for (and are labeled as) "DAC" or "SDAC" qualifies.

- **Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) Tool:**
<https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/>

For the purposes of this solicitation, when using the VCP, a community must qualify in one of the following top three categories for any climate hazard in the current timeframe to count as a vulnerable population:

- i. HIGH climate hazard and HIGH social vulnerability
- ii. MEDIUM climate hazard and HIGH social vulnerability
- iii. HIGH climate hazard and MEDIUM social vulnerability

If seeking preference points for benefits to vulnerable populations, Applicants must generate and submit with the application a report (using the VCP Report Generator) demonstrating that qualifying communities meet the above requirements. To request support for using the tool, please use the "Help Desk" link on the VCP homepage.

Mapping tools may be used to identify whether a community meets the vulnerable populations or (S)DAC definitions, however, these tools will not determine the meaningful and direct benefits that a project may provide to these communities.

To qualify for preference points, an Applicant must identify the communities receiving meaningful and direct benefits from the project on the Application Form (Attachment 01). The Applicant must also describe in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02) how the project will provide those communities with meaningful and direct benefits.

Note: locations identified on the Application Form must be for communities receiving meaningful and direct benefits from the project. These locations may differ from the project's physical location.

The Project Narrative should address the following questions:

- What benefit(s) will the project provide? See below examples.
- Which communities or populations will receive the project benefits and are these a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population?
- Are the anticipated project benefits "meaningful and direct" to (S)DAC or vulnerable populations?

Tribes, as defined by Proposition 4, are considered vulnerable populations and may or may not also qualify as DAC or SDAC for the purposes of the bond. To identify California Native American Tribes for the 2024 Climate Bond, State agencies and departments should utilize the California Tribal Consultation List, also known as the Tribal Contact List maintained by Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). While this list is developed for purposes of tribal consultations under SB 18 and AB 52, the Legislature included the NAHC's tribal contact list in the 2024 Climate Bond to identify California Native American Tribes for Climate Bond purposes. Utilize this form to request a copy of the NAHC contact list: <https://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Local-Government-Tribal-Consultation-List-Request-Form1.pdf>

c. Critical Infrastructure

Preference points are available for any project eligible under this solicitation that is also receiving federal funding that supports critical infrastructure, such as a water utility project, only if that federal funding is secure and in place.¹⁰

d. Community Conservation Corps

Preference points are available for projects that plan to use the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5.¹¹ The CCC provides grant consultation services upon request.¹² The Applicant must submit a signed Letter of Commitment from the conservation corps confirming services provided.

¹⁰ [Senate Bill 105](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB105) (Wiener, Chapter 104, Statutes of 2025) Schedule 2390028 – Renewable Energy, Provision 1: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB105.

¹¹ [Senate Bill 867](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB867) (Allen, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024), Public Resources Code section 90150. https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB867.

¹² California Conservation Corps [Grant Consultation Services](https://ccc.ca.gov/collaborate/consultation/): <https://ccc.ca.gov/collaborate/consultation/>.

9. Project Readiness

Successful projects are expected to begin deployment and come online quickly to meet statutory encumbrance and liquidation deadlines and be responsive to immediate grid reliability needs.

SB 105 requires that funds be encumbered (approved by the CEC) by June 30, 2028, meaning that CEQA and all required permitting must be completed prior to the approval of an award at a CEC Business Meeting. Applications must describe how the project will minimize and mitigate risks of failure, including but not limited to how the following requirements will be met prior to a CEC Business Meeting (see Section IV.E.2 "Scoring Criteria" for more information and required documentation):

- a. CEQA and land use permitting status: the Applicant should describe and substantiate the submittal of the project application to the local land use authority, including the status and expected timeline of the permitting or approval of the project and any environmental review. See Section C below for further required documentation.

If the local land use authority determines that the project is either exempt from CEQA, or an existing environmental document satisfies the local agency's requirement to analyze the environmental impacts of the project, the Applicant should provide documentation from an appropriate local building or planning official substantiating this determination, with sufficient information for the CEC to make independent findings on the project.

- b. Fire safety permitting (for battery energy storage system projects): as applicable, the Applicant should describe the status of fire safety permitting and submit documentation from the fire marshal describing:
 - i. Protective engineering measures and other safety considerations that meet or exceed minimum codes and standards for engineered and installed BESS
 - ii. Initial site design layout and single-line drawing
 - iii. Identification of distance to location-specific sensitive receptors
 - iv. Required set-backs for occupied structures
 - v. Emergency response isolation zone.
- c. Utility interconnection status: as applicable, the Applicant should document status of any utility and/or balancing authority interconnection studies or approvals necessary for the project to obtain required permits and begin operations.

Applicants should indicate one of the following stages of interconnection that reflects the status at the time of application, as applicable to their proposed project. Higher readiness will be scored more favorably.

Tier 1 readiness:

- Signed interconnection agreement

Tier 2 readiness:

- BTM project: Utility has fast tracked the project or utility detailed study is complete or very near completion.
- FTM project: Interconnection agreement is not finalized but Applicant can demonstrate:
 1. Project has made substantial progress through the interconnection process and likelihood of executing interconnection agreement is high, or
 2. Project utilizes existing interconnection capacity or is designed to be non-exporting to avoid impacts on the distribution grid.

Tier 3 readiness:

- Utility interconnection pre-application report indicates a high likelihood the project will be fast tracked.
- Applicant can demonstrate the project is likely to be fast tracked (for example, the project is designed to be non-exporting, or project is located on a circuit with available capacity).

The Applicant should describe the anticipated CEQA and permitting timeline in the Project Schedule (Attachment 05) and Project Narrative (Attachment 02), complete and submit the CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07), and provide documentation from the lead agency, fire marshal (if applicable), and the utility and/or balancing authority (if applicable). Letters should be attached to the CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07) and marked as submitted in the Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12).

Applications with geographically distinct subprojects must complete and submit a separate CEQA Compliance Form for each geographically distinct subproject.

The Applicant should indicate if the proposed site should be reviewed by a local building or planning official for categorical or statutory CEQA exemptions – including but not limited to projects located in a fire-affected area of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties addressed by Executive Order N-4-25¹³ or on tribal lands.

The Applicant must comply with applicable codes, interconnection requirements,¹⁴ UL certifications, and other standards such as the California electric code, National Electric

¹³ Executive Order N-4-25: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/EO-N-4-25-Rebuilding-Final-signed.pdf>

¹⁴ Rule 21 is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating, and metering requirements for generation facilities to be connected to a utility's distribution system. California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Electric Rule 21. <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Rule21/>

Code, and local and state fire marshal codes. The Applicant must acquire all necessary permits and perform load calculations to ensure system is safely installed.

C. Environmental Review Requirements

For all discretionary funding awards including the grants to be awarded under this solicitation, the CEC must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other requirements. Due to the nature of the projects to be prioritized by this funding and the associated encumbrance deadlines, **the CEC will prioritize projects where there is a local or other state agency serving as the Lead Agency under CEQA, where there is existing environmental documentation that the CEC can rely upon under CEQA to make its own independent findings as a Responsible Agency.** This section provides detailed guidance for Applicants to demonstrate their project readiness related to CEQA and local permitting.

1. Environmental Review

Prior to approving the grant and encumbrance of funds, the CEC must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 *et seq.*) and the administrative regulations, known as the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15000 *et seq.*) (collectively, CEQA) and other requirements. CEQA requires the CEC to consider the potential environmental impacts of its discretionary actions, such as entering into grant agreements. Per California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, "project" means "the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment."

To comply with CEQA, the CEC must have sufficient CEQA-related information from applicants to enable the CEC to make CEQA findings prior to approving a funding award. In some cases, applicants will already have project approvals from a local agency such as a city or county, which has evaluated the project as the Lead Agency under CEQA. In those cases, the CEC may be able to rely upon the environmental analysis and determination made by the local agency.

The best evidence of CEQA compliance is a Notice of Determination, which shows that the Lead Agency completed and adopted a negative declaration, a mitigated negative declaration, or an environmental impact report, together with specific mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts.

In some cases, a local Lead Agency will determine that a project falls within a statutory or categorical exemption under CEQA. The finding of an exemption is typically documented by a Notice of Exemption.

However, to the extent that the Notice of Exemption was either not filed with the State Clearinghouse, or was based on the characterization of the project as "ministerial," the CEC will likely not be able to rely on that local determination. This scenario would render the CEC as a Lead Agency over the discretionary decision to fund the project; the CEC's time and resources to assume Lead Agency responsibilities may not be

available. In this circumstance, the Applicant must include additional technical project information than normally required in a grant application to enable the CEC to determine the level of environmental review necessary to enter into the grant agreement. If the application does not include sufficient technical information and substantiation about the project description, the existing or pending environmental review, and the local permitting, the Application may fail the Phase I Application Screening or be deemed to lack project readiness in Phase II Application Scoring. Similarly, if there is no other Lead Agency for the project, and the application suggests that a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report would need to be prepared, the CEC may deem the project to lack project readiness, due to the time and resources necessary to comply with CEQA.

2. CEQA Related Right to Reject an Application or Cancel Proposed Award

In addition to any other right reserved to it under this solicitation or that it otherwise has, if the CEC determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that the CEQA review associated with a proposed project would not likely be completed prior to the encumbrance deadline referenced above, and that the CEC's ability to meet its encumbrance deadline may thereby be jeopardized, the CEC may reject an application or cancel a proposed award and award funds to the next highest scoring applicant, regardless of the applicant's diligence in submitting information and materials for CEQA review. Examples of situations that may arise related to CEQA review include but are not limited to:

Example 1: If another state agency or local jurisdiction, such as a city or county, has taken the role of Lead Agency under CEQA, please provide evidence of the completed CEQA review (i.e., Notice of Exemption or Notice of Determination, and all adopted environmental documents and mitigation and monitoring requirements).

Example 2: If another state agency or local jurisdiction, such as a city or county, has taken the role of Lead Agency under CEQA but has not yet filed the Notice of Exemption or Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse or County Clerk's Office in which the project is located, please provide detailed information about the scope and status of that agency's permitting and environmental review, together with a letter from the building, planning, or permitting official substantiating the agency's status and anticipated timeline.

Example 3: If the proposed work is part of a larger project for which a detailed environmental analysis has been or will be prepared by another state agency or local jurisdiction, please provide detailed information about the scope and status of that agency's permitting and environmental review, together with a letter from the building, planning, or permitting official substantiating the agency's status and anticipated timeline. Please indicate if the other agency believes the proposed project falls within an existing environmental determination, and what type of

supplemental analysis or addendum may be prepared. Example 4: If the nature of the proposed work is such that a project is not exempt from the requirements of CEQA, the CEC's review or the Lead Agency's review may take longer than the time available to encumber the funds. If a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, environmental impact report, or similar document has already been completed by another state agency or a local jurisdiction serving as the lead agency, the applicant must ensure that such an analysis covers the work in the proposed project, or must obtain a revised analysis and determination from the Lead Agency reviewing the proposed project.

The above examples are not exhaustive of instances in which compliance with CEQA may or may not be able to be completed within the encumbrance deadline and due to lack of time and resources, and are only provided as further clarification for potential Applicants. Applicants are encouraged to contact potential Lead and Responsible agencies under CEQA as early as possible. Please plan applications accordingly.

3. Environmental Review of Projects Proposed on Tribal Lands

If the project will be located on the lands of a tribe or nation, the tribe or nation may be able to provide evidence of environmental review that was not conducted under CEQA. In those cases, the CEC will need to review the documentation of environmental review under the relevant tribal or other authority, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or a tribally adopted ordinance regarding environmental review.

4. Environmental Review of Projects Proposed on Federal Lands

If the project will be located on federally owned land, the grant applicant may be able to provide evidence of environmental review that was not conducted under CEQA. In those cases, the CEC will need to review the documentation of environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

D. CEC's Rights and Remedies

Any evaluation or decisional process explained in this solicitation is in addition to, and does not restrict, any other rights and remedies available to the CEC.

III: APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Application Format, Page Limits

All items listed below are required as part of the application package. Failure to provide any items may result in disqualification of the application.

Documents must meet the following requirements:

- **Font:** 11-point, Arial (excluding original template headers and footers, and commitment or support letters)
- **Margins:** No less than one (1) inch on all sides (excluding headers and footers)
- **Spacing:** Single spaced, with a blank line between each paragraph
- **Page Numbers:** Page numbers on the bottom of each page
- **File Format:** Microsoft Word version 2007 or later (.doc or .docx format), excluding Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, documents requiring signatures, and commitment or support letters. PDF files are acceptable for the documents requiring signatures and letters.
- **Signatures:** Wet or certified electronic signatures (PDF files)

Table 5 shows the order in which the application documents must be submitted, and the maximum page limit.

Table 5: Application Documents Submittal Order

Item	Attachment Number	Page Limitation
Application Form	Attachment 01	Use form provided
Project Narrative	Attachment 02	Thirty (30) pages. Appendices and attachments that bring count over thirty (30) pages will not be considered.
Project Team and Resumes	Attachment 03	One page max per individual, two pages max per resume.
Scope of Work	Attachment 04	Thirty pages
Project Schedule	Attachment 05	None
Budget	Attachment 06	None

Item	Attachment Number	Page Limitation
CEQA Compliance Form	Attachment 07	None
Past Projects Information Form	Attachment 08	One page per reference; two pages per past project
Commitment and Support Letters	Attachment 09	Two pages per letter, excluding the cover page. No max number of letters.
Measurement & Verification Requirements	Attachment 10	None
Applicant Declaration	Attachment 11	One page
Project Readiness Checklist	Attachment 12	None

B. Method For Delivery

The **only** method of submitting applications to this solicitation is the [CEC Agreement Management System \(ECAMS\) webpage](https://ecams.energy.ca.gov) at <https://ecams.energy.ca.gov>. ECAMS allows Applicants to complete and submit their application to the CEC prior to the date and time specified in this solicitation. Files uploaded to the system must be in Microsoft Word XP (.doc format) or newer and Excel Office Suite formats unless originally provided in the solicitation in another format. Attachments requiring signatures, such as the application form and match funding commitment letters, may be scanned and submitted in PDF format. Completed Attachment 06 Budget must be in Excel format.

The deadline to submit applications through ECAMS system is 11:59 p.m. on the deadline to submit applications date shown in the key activities schedule located in section I.D. ECAMS automatically closes at 11:59 pm. If the full submittal process has not been completed before 11:59 p.m., your application will not be considered.

The CEC strongly encourages Applicants to upload and submit all applications by 5:00 p.m. because CEC staff will not be available after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends to assist with the upload process. While we endeavor to assist all would-be applicants, we cannot guarantee staff will be available for in-person consultation on the due date, so please plan accordingly.

Please give yourself ample time to complete all steps of the submission process: do not wait until right before the deadline to begin the process. Due to factors outside the CEC's control and unrelated to ECAMS, upload times may be much longer than expected. For example, unexpected issues could occur, causing long delays that prevent timely submission.

For instructions on how to apply using the ECAMS system, please see the How to Apply document available on the [CEC Funding Resources webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-resources>, under General Funding Information, Energy Commission Agreement Management System (ECAMS). First time users must register as a new user to access the system. There will be two types of user accounts to establish: 1) An organizational account, for the entity applying to the solicitation; and 2) user accounts for individuals who will be submitting the application on behalf of the organization. The CEC is providing a team of technical assistants to support applicants with this new process. Please email ECAMS.SalesforceSupport@energy.ca.gov for support.

Applicants will be required to upload all attachments marked “required” in the system for the application to be submitted.

Hard copies, or submissions via email or fax will not be accepted for this solicitation.

C. Modifying or withdrawal of application

Applicants may, by letter to the CAO at the CEC, withdraw or modify any submitted application before the deadline identified in **Error! Reference source not found.** information above. Applications cannot be changed after the submittal deadline.

A submitted application or term cannot be “timed” to expire on a specific date. For example, a statement such as the following, “This application and the cost estimate are valid for 60 days” is considered non-responsive to the Solicitation and will be scored as such.

D. Required Application Attachments

Below is a description of each required section, or attachments, of the application – there are 12 attachments. Reference each individual attachment for more detailed information. Completeness in submitting all attachments with the required information will be factored into application scoring. Failure to provide any attachment may result in disqualification of the application.

1. Application Form (Attachment 01)

The application form provides the CEC with basic information about the applicant and the project. Each applicant must complete and sign this form as a .pdf. If an applicant submits multiple applications, each application must be for a distinct project (see Section II.A.1 “Eligibility”).

2. Project Narrative (Attachment 02)

The project narrative provides a detailed description of the proposed project and tasks, explanation for how the program goals and objectives will be achieved, quantified and measured through the tasks described in Attachment 04 Scope of Work, and overall management of the agreement. The narrative must also respond directly to each

criterion with the headings as listed in the Scoring Criteria. Electronic files for the Project Narrative must be in MS Word file format.

3. Project Team Form (Attachment 03)

Identify by name all key personnel assigned to the project, including individuals employed by the Applicant and any subrecipient(s), including the project manager and principal investigator (if applicable), and individuals employed by any major sub-subrecipient (defined as receiving \$100,000 or more of CEC funds). Clearly describe their individual areas of responsibility. Include the information required for each individual, including a resume (maximum two pages per person).

4. Scope of Work (Attachment 04)

Applicants must include a completed Scope of Work for each project, as instructed in the template, that conforms to the description of activities in Attachment 02 Project Narrative. The Scope of Work identifies the tasks required to complete the project. Applicants' Scope of Work should describe all tasks necessary to complete the entire project.

Electronic files for the Scope of Work must be in MS Word file format.

5. Project Schedule (Attachment 05)

The Project Schedule includes a list of all products, meetings, launch dates (initiation of receiving applications for grants funds, outreach/education to share information on grants, or issuing grants), and due dates. The timeline should also include the start date to provide services. All work must be completed by the Key Activities and Dates listed in Section I.D. "Key Activities and Dates." Electronic files for the Project Schedule must be in MS Excel file format.

6. Budget (Attachment 06)

The budget forms must be in MS Excel format. Detailed instructions for completing them are included at the beginning of Attachment 06 Budget. **Read the instructions before completing the worksheets.** Complete and submit information on **all** budget worksheets. The CEC will discuss the proposed budget with Recipients, suggest amendments, and reserves the right to determine the initial and subsequent funding levels for the agreement resulting from this solicitation. If there is no agreement on the budget, CEC reserves right to cancel the award.

- a. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered must reflect the salaries, rates, and other costs the Applicant would include if selected as a grant recipient. A separate set of complete budget forms is required for the Applicant and for each subaward containing \$100,000 or more of CEC funds. The salaries, rates, and other costs entered on the worksheets will become a part of any final agreement.
- b. All project expenditures (match share and reimbursable) must be made within the Anticipated Agreement Start and End dates listed in the Key Activities

Schedule of this solicitation manual. Match share requirements are discussed earlier in this solicitation manual.

- c. The purchase of equipment (defined as items with a unit cost greater than \$5,000 and a useful life of greater than one year) with CEC funds will require disposition of purchased equipment at the end of the project. Typically, grant recipients may continue to utilize equipment purchased with CEC funds as long as the use is consistent with the intent of the original agreement. There are no disposition requirements for equipment purchased with match share funding.
- d. The budget must reflect estimates for actual costs to be incurred during the full agreement term. The CEC may only approve and reimburse for actual costs that are properly documented in accordance with the grant agreement terms and conditions, and for which federal approval has been received. Rates and personnel shown must reflect the rates and personnel the Applicant would include if selected as a Recipient.
- e. The proposed rates are considered capped and may not change during the agreement term. The Recipient will only be reimbursed for actual rates up to the rate caps. The Recipient can only bill for actual expenses incurred at the Recipient's actual rates not to exceed the rates specified in the Budget (e.g., direct labor rates, fringe benefit rates, and indirect rates).
- f. The budget must NOT include any grant Recipient profit from the proposed project, either as a reimbursed item, match share, or as part of overhead or general and administrative expenses (subrecipient profit is allowable, though the maximum percentage allowed is 10% of the total subrecipient rates for labor, and other direct and indirect costs as indicated in the Category Budget tab). Please review the terms and conditions and budget forms for additional restrictions and requirements.
- g. The budget must allow for the expenses of all meetings, products, and activities described in Attachment 04 Scope of Work. Meetings may be conducted at the CEC or by conference call, as determined by the CAM.
- h. Applicants must budget for permits and insurance. Permitting costs may be accounted for in match share. Permit costs and the expenses associated with obtaining permits, including environmental review, are not reimbursable with CEC funds, except for costs incurred by University of California grant recipients.
- i. CEC funds may not be spent outside of the United States or for out-of-state travel. However, match funds may cover these costs if there are no legal restrictions.
- j. Prevailing wage requirement: Projects that receive an award of public funds from the CEC often involve construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair or maintenance work over \$1,000.

NOTE: Projects that receive an award of public funds from the CEC are likely to be considered public works under the California Labor Code. See Chapter 1 of Part7 of

Division 2 of the California Labor Code, commencing with section 1720 and Title 8, CCR, Chapter 8, Subchapter 3, commencing with section 16000.

Projects deemed to be public works require, among other things, the payment of prevailing wages.

NOTE: Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates.

By accepting this Agreement, Recipient as a material term of this Agreement shall be fully responsible for complying with all California public works requirements including, but not limited to, payment of prevailing wage as applicable.

NOTE: Only the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and courts of competent jurisdiction have jurisdiction to issue legally binding determinations that a particular project is or is not a public work.

If the Recipient is unsure whether the project receiving this award is a "public work" as defined in the California Labor code, it may wish to seek a timely determination from the DIR or an appropriate court.

NOTE: California Prevailing Wage law provides for substantial damages and financial penalties for failure to pay prevailing wages when payment of prevailing wages is required.

7. CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07)

The CEC requires the information on this form to facilitate its evaluation of proposed activities under CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.), a law that requires state and local agencies in California to assess the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. The form will also help applicants to determine CEQA compliance obligations by identifying which proposed activities may be exempt from CEQA and which activities may require additional environmental review. If proposed activities are exempt from CEQA, the worksheet will help to identify and document this. This form must be completed regardless of whether the proposed activities are considered a "project" under CEQA. Applications proposing multiple, geographically distinct sites must ensure that the CEQA Compliance Form addresses each site.

Failure to complete the CEQA process or secure required permits or approvals for local authorities in a timely manner after the CEC's Notice of Proposed Award may, in the CEC's sole discretion and without limiting any of the CEC's other rights and remedies, result in the cancellation of a proposed award and allocation of funding elsewhere, such as to the next highest-scoring project.

8. Past Products Information Form (Attachment 08)

The Past Products Information Form asks for information about the Applicant and its major subrecipients' past agreements with the CEC and other entities. **Any experience of either the prime applicant or its subrecipients working with the CEC or other entity as a prime applicant or subrecipient, should be detailed in the**

Past Products Information Form. This must include all CEC agreements (contracts, grants, or loans) within the past five (5) years (if any).

Applicants are encouraged to treat this form as part of demonstrating their track record, technical merit, and qualifications.

9. Commitment and Support Letter Form (Attachment 09)

A **commitment letter** commits an entity or individual to providing the service or funding described in the letter. A **support letter** details an entity or individual's support for the project.

Letters must include sufficient contact information, so CEC is able to contact the letter writer. Letters are limited to 2 pages each.

Commitment and Support Letters must be submitted with the application. Letters that are not submitted by the application deadline will not be reviewed and counted towards meeting the requirement specified in the solicitation.

- **Commitment Letters**

Applicants must submit a match funding commitment letter from each entity that is committing to providing match funding (including the Applicant and/or a third-party).

Match funding: Each commitment letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the entity or by the individual that is making the match funding commitment. A commitment letter must include: (1) the intended amount of match that will be committed to the project; (2) the source(s) of the funds; (3) an unqualified (i.e. without reservation or limitation) commitment that guarantees the availability of the funds for the project; and (4) a strategy for replacing or operating without the funds if they are significantly reduced or lost.

Match service/non-funding: The letter must be signed by an authorized representative that: (1) identifies how the partner will contribute to the project; and (2) unconditionally commits to making the contribution if Recipient is awarded a CEC grant.

- **Support Letters**

All Applicants must include at least one support letter from an entity or individual that will benefit from or be involved in the project that: (1) describes the party's interest or involvement in the project; (2) indicates the extent to which the project has the support of the relevant industry and/or organizations; and (3) describes any support it intends (but does not necessarily commit) to provide for the project.

10. Measurement & Verification Plan (Attachment 10)

This document is intended help the Applicant identify which key performance indicators (KPIs), metrics, and targets to use in their Measurement and Verification (M&V) Plan. This will enable measurement and evaluation of project performance and then quantify

project benefits. These project specific KPIs, metrics, and targets identified at the beginning of the agreement will allow the Applicant to track performance and benefits throughout the operations of the DEBA Project. The performance of both the technologies and overall project should be measured and evaluated using a combination of scientific, engineering and techno-economic data to track project milestones, evaluate project performance, and determine project success. Applicant's M&V plan will inform the CEC on how M&V data will be collected and reported for the purpose of providing analyses in future project performance reports. The results will be required to be reported: 1) in progress reports to the CEC CAM, 2) annually after each DEBA program season, and 3) in a final report.

11. Applicant Declaration (Attachment 11)

This form requests the **Applicant make certain declarations under penalty of perjury. This form must be signed by an Authorized Representative of the Applicant's organization.**

12. Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12)

Applicants must complete and submit a Project Readiness Checklist for each proposed project site. The documentation should demonstrate site readiness as it pertains to CEQA, fire safety permitting, interconnection status, and site control. The documentation should align with the scope and location of the project. Incomplete or missing materials may result in reduced scoring during evaluation.

IV: EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

A. Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated (screened and scored) based on the information provided in response to the requests in this solicitation.

Throughout the evaluation process - from receipt of applications up to the posting of the Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA) - all application documents are considered confidential. After the release of the NOPA or the cancellation of this Solicitation, submitted documents are no longer considered confidential and will become publicly available records. **The CEC will not accept, evaluate, or retain applications that identify any portion as confidential.**

The evaluation process consists of two phases.

1. Phase One: Application Screening

The CEC Contracts, Grants and Loans Office will screen applications for compliance with the administrative screening criteria listed in Table 6. The Evaluation Committee will screen applications for compliance with the technical screening criteria listed in Table 7 and past performance screening criteria listed in Table 8. Applications that fail any of the screening criteria will be disqualified and eliminated from further evaluation.

The screening process is described further below.

2. Phase Two: Application Scoring

Applications that pass Phase One will be submitted to the Evaluation Committee for review and scoring based on the information requested in this solicitation. The CEC will organize an Evaluation Committee that consists of primarily, or all, CEC staff. The Evaluation Committee may use additional technical expert reviewers to provide an analysis of the applications.

- The score for each application will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members.
- Applicants must score a minimum of 70 percent **each** for scoring **criterion 1, criterion 2, and criterion 3**. Also, applicants must score 70 percent of the 100 Total Possible Base Points to be eligible for funding.
- Applicants may be eligible for Preference Points, or additional points beyond the Total Possible Base Points. There are four Preference Point criteria, totaling up to 30 additional points.

The scoring process is described further below.

B. Ranking, Notice of Proposed Award, and Agreement Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA)

1. Ranking and Notice of Proposed Award (NOPA)

Applications receiving at least the minimum required score for all criteria will be ranked according to their score. The results of application evaluation will be posted in a Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA). The NOPA will be published on the CEC's website and emailed to all entities that applied.

The NOPA includes: (1) the total proposed funding amount; (2) the rank order of applications with passing scores; and (3) projects recommended for an award and the amount of each proposed award.

Proposed awards must be approved by the CEC at a Business Meeting.

In addition to any of its other rights, the CEC reserves the right to:

- Allocate any additional funds to passing applications, in rank order;
- Negotiate with successful applicants to modify the project scope, schedule, project team entity that will receive the award, project location and/or level of funding.

2. Debriefings

Applications that are not recommended for funding may request a debriefing after the release of the NOPA by emailing the CAO. A request for debriefing must be received no later than 15 calendar days after the NOPA is released.

3. Agreements

Applications recommended for funding in the NOPA will be developed into a proposed grant agreement to be considered at a CEC Business Meeting. Any changes to Attachment 04 Scope of Work, Attachment 05 Project Schedule, or Attachment 06 Budget will be discussed. If there is no agreement on the changes, CEC reserves the right to cancel the proposed award.

Grant recipients may begin the project only after full execution of the grant agreement (that is, after the approval at a CEC Business Meeting and signatures by the grant recipient and the CEC).

- **Agreement Development:** The Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office will send the grant recipient a grant agreement for approval and signature. The agreement will include the applicable terms and conditions and will incorporate this solicitation and the application by reference. The CEC reserves the right to modify the award documents (including the project scope, level of funding and terms and conditions) prior to executing any agreement. Recipients that are California Native American tribes or public agencies must provide an authorizing resolution approved by their tribal council or governing authority to enter into an agreement with CEC and designating an authorized representative to sign.

- **Performance Evaluation:** An applicant receiving an award under this solicitation is subject to an evaluation of performance under the resulting agreement. The CEC reserves the right to utilize the performance evaluation to screen and score future funding applications.
- **Failure to Execute an Agreement:** If the CEC is unable to successfully execute an agreement with an applicant in a timely manner, it reserves the right to cancel the pending award and use the funds elsewhere, such as to fund the next highest-ranked, eligible application.
- **Agreement Amendment.** The executed agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the CEC and the Recipient. The agreement may require amendments as a result of oversight, project reviews, progress, changes in project scope, and/or availability in funding.

C. Grounds to Reject an Application or Cancel an Award

Applications that do not pass the Administrative Screening Criteria in Phase One of the evaluation process will be rejected. In addition, the CEC reserves the right to reject an application and/or to cancel an award for any reason, including any of the following:

- The application contains false or intentionally misleading statements or references that do not support an attribute or condition contended by the applicant.
- The application is intended to erroneously and fallaciously mislead the State in any way.
- The application does not comply or contains caveats that conflict with the solicitation, and the variation or deviation is material.
- The applicant has received unsatisfactory agreement performance evaluations from the CEC or another California state agency.
- The applicant is a business entity required to be registered with the California Secretary of State and is not in good standing.
- The applicant has not demonstrated it has the financial capability to complete the project.
- The applicant fails to meet CEQA compliance within sufficient time for the CEC to meet its encumbrance deadline or any other deadlines, as the CEC in its sole and absolute discretion may determine.
- The applicant has included a statement or otherwise indicating that it will not accept the terms and conditions, or that acceptance is based on modifications to the terms and conditions. If an applicant, by law, cannot agree to certain terms and conditions, the applicant can request a modification. This modification may be negotiated if the applicant is proposed for award. The CEC retains the sole right to refuse to agree to any requested modifications.

D. Phase One: Application Screening

The application must pass all screening criteria to progress to Phase two.

There are three categories of screening criteria: Table 6 describes the administrative screening criteria, Table 7 describes the technical screening criteria, and Table 8 describes the past performance screening criteria.

Table 6: Administrative Screening Criteria

<i>The Application must pass ALL administrative screening criteria</i>	Pass/Fail
1. The application is received by the CEC by the due date and time specified in the Key Activities Schedule of this solicitation and is received in the required manner (e.g., no emails or faxes).	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
2. The requested CEC funding falls within the minimum and maximum range specified in the solicitation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
3. The Applicant has provided the required authorizations and certifications, as described in Section III.D "Required Application Attachments".	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
4. The Applicant has not identified any sections or attachments as confidential items, per requirements in Section IV.A "Application Evaluation" and Section V.D "Confidentiality".	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail

Table 7: Technical Screening Criteria

<i>The Application must pass ALL technical screening criteria</i>	Pass/Fail
1. The Applicant is an eligible applicant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
2. The proposed project meets the location and site requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
3. The funding requested in the Application is for eligible technologies.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
4. If the Applicant has submitted more than one application, each application must involve either a different combination of eligible technology equipment to be installed or different identifiable project sites.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
5. The Application includes Commitment Letter(s) that total at least the minimum match share requirement.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail

<i>The Application must pass ALL technical screening criteria</i>	Pass/Fail
6. The Application includes documentation of verified site control for the proposed project (including any geographically distinct subprojects, if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
7. The Application includes documentation substantiating CEQA, permitting, and interconnection status for the proposed project (including for all geographically distinct subprojects, if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail

Table 8: Past Performance Screening Criteria

<p>An Applicant may be disqualified under this solicitation due to severe performance issues under one or more prior or active CEC agreements. <i>This past performance screening criterion does not apply to applicants that do not have any active or prior agreements with the CEC.</i></p> <p>The Applicant—defined for the purpose of this past performance screening criterion as at least one of the following: the non-profit, government, principal investigator, or lead individual acting on behalf of themselves—received funds from the CEC (e.g., contract, grant, or loan) and entered into an agreement(s) with the CEC and demonstrated severe performance issues characterized by significant negative outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant deviation from agreement requirements that were caused by factors that are, or should have been, within applicant’s control; • Termination with cause; • Demonstrated poor communication, poor project management, and/or inability, due to circumstances within applicant’s control or which should have been within applicant’s control, from materially completing the project; • Deliverables were not submitted to the CEC or were of significantly poor quality. For example, applicant delivered poorly written reports that required significant rework by staff prior to acceptance or publication; and • Severe audit findings not resolved to CEC’s satisfaction. Severe audit findings may include, but are not limited to, incomplete or unsatisfactory deliverables, grant funds used inappropriately (i.e., other than as represented) or questioned costs. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Fail
---	---

E. Phase Two: Application Scoring

Each application that passes ALL Phase One Screening Criteria will be evaluated by each member of the Evaluation Committee based on the Scoring Scale and Scoring Criteria below and assigned a score by the member.

The final score for an application will be the average of the scores assigned by all Evaluation Committee members. The Evaluation Committee will recommend awards to the highest ranked proposals (according to the final application score) among the applications eligible for funding (achieved all minimum passing Base Points scores) until available funding under this solicitation has been exhausted.

1. Scoring Scale

Table 9 describes the scoring scale used to assess an application relative to a scoring criterion and assign points to the application for that criterion.

Table 9: Scoring Scale

Percent of Possible Points	Interpretation	Explanation for Percentage
0%	Not Responsive	Response does not include or fails to address the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable.
10-30%	Minimally Responsive	Response minimally addresses the requirements being scored. The omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are significant and unacceptable.
40-60%	Inadequate	Response addresses the requirements being scored, but there are one or more omissions, flaws, or defects or the requirements are addressed in such a limited way that it results in a low degree of confidence in the proposed solution.
70%	Adequate	Response adequately addresses the requirements being scored. Any omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are inconsequential and acceptable.
75%	Between Adequate and Good	Response better than adequately addresses the requirements being scored. Any omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s) are inconsequential and acceptable.
80%	Good	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a good degree of confidence in the applicant's response or proposed solution. No identified omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s). Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable.

Percent of Possible Points	Interpretation	Explanation for Percentage
85%	Between Good and Excellent	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a better than good degree of confidence in the applicant's response or proposed solution. No identified omission(s), flaw(s), or defect(s). Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable.
90%	Excellent	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a high degree of confidence in the applicant's response or proposed solution. Applicant offers one or more enhancing features, methods or approaches exceeding basic expectations.
95%	Between Excellent and Exceptional	Response fully addresses the requirements being scored with a better than excellent degree of confidence in the applicant's response or proposed solution. Applicant offers one or more enhancing features, methods or approaches exceeding basic expectations.
100%	Exceptional	All requirements are addressed with the highest degree of confidence in the applicant's response or proposed solution. The response exceeds the requirements in providing multiple enhancing features, a creative approach, or an exceptional solution.

2. Scoring Criteria

Table 10 describes each scoring criteria (and sub-criteria) evaluated for assessing Base and Preference Points. **The Project Narrative (Attachment 02) must respond to each sub-criterion, unless otherwise indicated.** The responses must directly relate to the solicitation requirements, as stated in this solicitation.

Each scoring criterion has an assigned number of possible points and is divided into multiple sub-criteria. The sub-criteria are not equally weighted. There are two categories of scoring criteria: Five Base Points scoring criteria and four Preference Points scoring criteria. Total maximum Base Points that an applicant can achieve are 100. Total maximum Preference Points that an applicant can achieve are 30.

The minimum Base Points passing score refers to the threshold an applicant must achieve to remain eligible for an award. Specifically, the applicant must earn 1) at least 70% of the total possible points for each of criterion 1, criterion 2 and criterion 3; and

2) at least 70% of the total possible maximum points across all criteria (70 of 100 possible points) for Base Points. Failure to meet this score disqualifies the application.

An application that achieves all minimum Base Points passing scores will also be evaluated for Preference Points as applicable.

The application will be evaluated on each of the following criteria (and sub-criteria) described in Table 10.

Table 10: Scoring Criteria

Base Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
<p>1. Contribution to Reliability and Other Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The amount of incremental nominated capacity and duration (hours) that will be committed during program hours (and beyond) to improve grid reliability in accordance with the proposed performance pathway. b. The project’s expected lifespan and the extent to which the project’s committed capacity and duration can be sustained over its lifespan. c. Degree to which the application addresses the following criteria in applicable attachments such as the Project Narrative (Attachment 02), Scope of Work (Attachment 04), and/or M&V Plan (Attachment 10): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Describes (using quantitative and qualitative supporting details) why the proposed project is needed ii. Describes (using quantitative and qualitative supporting details) the non-reliability benefits that will result from the project, such as benefits to the local community, workforce training, and/or climate benefits (such as mitigating potential adverse impacts of multiple climate hazards – extreme heat, drought, flooding, etc.). iii. Explains and justifies the selected performance pathway and demonstrates the above capacity and duration estimates are credible and achievable. iv. Describes a plan to meet general data requirements to verify the project’s ability to provide the nominated capacity for its full duration. v. Describes a plan to meet applicable performance pathway data requirements and explains how demonstrated capacity will be calculated. 	<p>25</p>

Base Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
vi. Describes a plan for quality control of relevant data streams to be collected or calculated.	
Criterion 1 total score is 25 points. The minimum Passing Score (70%) for this criterion is <u>17.5 points</u> .	
<p>2. Project Timeline and Management</p> <p>Degree to which the application:</p> <p>Addresses the following in attachments such as the Project Narrative (Attachment 02), Project Team Form (Attachment 03), and Past Projects Information (Attachment 08):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explains success and risk factors (e.g. supply chain, environmental, construction, project cost) and outlines a risk mitigation plan. b. Demonstrates the project team, including any key partners, has appropriate qualifications, experience, financial stability, and capability to complete the project, including a history of successfully completing similar projects. c. Explains team structure and how various tasks will be managed and coordinated, including an organization chart. d. Describes the facilities, infrastructure, and resources available that support the project. <p>Addresses the following in the Project Schedule (Attachment 05):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Identifies a realistic project schedule, with milestones, for completing all phases of the project, including project online date, and ensuring CEC funds will be spent prior to March 31, 2030, to account for necessary processing time ahead of the liquidation deadline (June 30, 2030). Applicants should account for this in the Project Schedule. 	25
Criterion 2 total score is 25 points. The minimum Passing Score (70%) for this criterion is <u>17.5 points</u> .	
<p>3. Project Readiness</p> <p>Degree to which the application:</p> <p>Addresses the following in attachments such as the Project Narrative (Attachment 02), Project Schedule (Attachment 05), and the CEQA Compliance Form (Attachment 07). Required letters should be attached to</p>	20

Base Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
<p>the CEQA Compliance Form and marked as submitted in the Project Readiness Checklist (Attachment 12).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates completed or pending approval of the project, including any geographically distinct subprojects, by the local land use authority (e.g. city, county, state), including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Please see Section II.C "Environmental Review Requirements".¹⁵ b. As applicable, substantiates the submittal of the project application to the local land use authority, including the status and expected timeline of the permitting or approval of the project and any environmental review. c. As applicable, substantiates a local agency's determination of CEQA exemption, or acceptance of an existing environmental document meeting the local agency's requirements for the project's environmental impacts analysis, such as relevant documentation from a local building or planning official. d. As applicable, for applicants proposing a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), establishes confidence in the status of fire safety permitting, such as documentation obtained from the local fire marshal. e. As applicable, documents status of any utility and/or balancing authority interconnection studies or approvals necessary for the project to obtain required permits and begin operations. Additionally, applicants may select one of the stages of interconnection readiness listed in Section II.B.9 "Project Readiness" that reflects the status at the time of application submission. A higher readiness level will be scored more favorably. f. For BTM non-residential projects or FTM projects, establishes confidence in verified site control for each identified project site, including but not limited to an executed lease agreement, executed host site agreement, recorded easement, or proof of property ownership. If a project partner is providing the site, a Letter of Commitment is required indicating plan and timeline for site ownership, leases, or access rights (see Attachment 09). 	

¹⁵ If the project is located on tribal or federal land, also see Section II.C. "Environmental Review Requirements."

Base Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
<p>Addresses the following in the Scope of Work (Attachment 04):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Identifies goals, objectives, and deliverables, work tasks and details of the work to be performed and how the work will be managed. This should align with the information submitted in the Project Narrative and Project Schedule. 	
<p>Criterion 3 total score is 20 points. The minimum Passing Score (70%) for this criterion is <u>14 points</u>.</p>	
<p>4. Funding and Reasonable Budget</p> <p>Degree to which the application:</p> <p>Addresses the following in attachments such as the Project Narrative (Attachment 02):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Describes the need for DEBA funding to overcome policy or structural barriers and challenges. b. Explains how funds will be spent on the project (e.g. equipment, personnel). c. Justifies the reasonableness of the requested funds relative to the project goals, objectives, and tasks. d. Describes how budget risks or contingencies will be addressed. e. Certifies the project will adhere to Proposition 4 requirements in PRC section 94510 (see Section I.E.7 "Proposition 4 Funding Restrictions") and describes an accounting methodology to ensure and verify adherence. <p>Addresses the following in attachments such as the Budget (Attachment 06):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Provides complete Budget forms for the Applicant and all subrecipients. g. Demonstrates the reasonableness of direct costs (e.g., labor, fringe benefits, equipment, materials & misc. travel, and subrecipients). h. Demonstrates the reasonableness of indirect costs (e.g., overhead, facility charges (e.g., rent, utilities), burdens, subrecipient profit, and other like costs). i. Identifies match funds by documenting funds are secured, reasonable, available, and verifiable. 	<p>15</p>

Base Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
j. Attaches price quotes from suppliers to justify cost estimates for equipment for eligible technologies.	
Criterion 4 total score is 15 points.	
<p>5. Cost-Effectiveness</p> <p>Degree to which the application demonstrates the project is cost-effective as discussed below.</p> <p>The CEC Evaluation Committee will assess and score the project’s cost-effectiveness in the following manner, where “cost metric” or CM (\$/MW) is CEC funds requested (\$) for the project divided by the project’s total incremental rated capacity (MW):</p> <p>The difference between the lowest and highest CM projects of the submitted applications passing the minimum passing base points score will be divided into 10 equal CM bands. Projects with CM in Band 1 (lowest CM band) will receive 100% of the available points, while projects with CM in Band 10 (highest CM band) will receive 10% of the available points. Projects with CM in an intermediate Band N will receive a score of $\{100\% - [(N-1) \times 10\%]\}$ of the available points. Each band includes the highest end of the band but not the lowest end, except Band 1 includes both ends. The lower the CM of a project, the higher the project’s score for cost-effectiveness.</p>	15
Criterion 5 total score is 15 points.	
Total Possible Base Points (not including Preference Points)	100
Minimum Passing Base Points Score (70%)	70

Preference Points Scoring Criteria	Possible Points
<p>Applications must achieve all minimum passing Base Point scores for Scoring Criteria 1 - 5 to be eligible for the additional Preference Points (maximum possible 30 preference points).</p> <p>6. Direct and Meaningful Benefits to Vulnerable Populations and Disadvantaged Communities or Severely Disadvantaged Communities</p> <p>Applications proposing projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to Vulnerable Populations and (S)DACs qualify for up to 10 additional preference points.</p>	10

<p style="text-align: center;">Preference Points Scoring Criteria</p> <p>Applications must achieve all minimum passing Base Point scores for Scoring Criteria 1 - 5 to be eligible for the additional Preference Points (maximum possible 30 preference points).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Possible Points</p>				
<p>To qualify for the preference points, Applicants must identify the community(ies) and/or populations receiving meaningful and direct benefits from the project in the Application Form (Attachment 01). Note, these may be different from the physical location of the project.</p> <p>The Applicant must describe in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02) the meaningful and direct benefits¹⁶ that will be provided to the communities identified in the Application Form (Attachment 01). The description should address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What benefit(s) will the project provide? (Benefit examples can be found in Section II.B.8 "Proposition 4 Directed Priorities"). b. Which communities or populations will receive the project benefits and are these a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population? c. Are the anticipated project benefits "meaningful and direct" to (S)DAC or vulnerable populations? <p>Applicants may submit Letters of Support from community-based organizations, tribes, workforce development stakeholders, environmental justice organizations, or other partners to demonstrate how the project will provide direct and meaningful benefits.</p> <p>If seeking preference points for benefits to vulnerable populations, Applicants must generate and submit with the application a report (using the VCP Report Generator) demonstrating that qualifying communities meet the VCP requirements.</p> <p>Scoring considerations: Preference points will be awarded based on the <u>highest scoring category only</u>. Categories will not be added or averaged. If applicable, the maximum and minimum score possible under this criterion are 10 and 5.</p> <p>Example: an Applicant demonstrating benefits to a vulnerable population (10 points) <u>and</u> a DAC (5 points) is eligible to receive a maximum total of 10 points, based on the <u>highest scoring category only</u>.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="321 1633 1198 1717"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="321 1633 987 1675">Community Category</th> <th data-bbox="987 1633 1198 1675">Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="321 1675 987 1717">Vulnerable Populations</td> <td data-bbox="987 1675 1198 1717">10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Community Category	Score	Vulnerable Populations	10	
Community Category	Score				
Vulnerable Populations	10				

¹⁶ The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has developed guidance for defining "meaningful and direct benefits" that Applicants are encouraged to review: <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Bonds/Prop-4/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>

Preference Points Scoring Criteria			Possible Points																		
Applications must achieve all minimum passing Base Point scores for Scoring Criteria 1 - 5 to be eligible for the additional Preference Points (maximum possible 30 preference points).																					
	Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)	10																			
	Disadvantaged Community (DAC)	5																			
<p>7. Exceeding Minimum Match Funding Requirement</p> <p>Preference points shall be awarded on a sliding scale to projects exceeding the minimum match fund requirements as demonstrated in the Budget (Attachment 06) and Letters of Commitment (Attachment 09). The percentage of match funds is calculated as a proportion of the CEC grant funds requested. (Example: A project requesting \$10,000,000 in CEC funding must contribute a minimum of \$2,500,000 in match funds).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Match Percentage (cash and in-kind)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>30-39</td><td style="text-align: center;">1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>40-49</td><td style="text-align: center;">2.0</td></tr> <tr><td>50-59</td><td style="text-align: center;">2.5</td></tr> <tr><td>60-69</td><td style="text-align: center;">3.0</td></tr> <tr><td>70-79</td><td style="text-align: center;">3.5</td></tr> <tr><td>80-89</td><td style="text-align: center;">4.0</td></tr> <tr><td>90-99</td><td style="text-align: center;">4.5</td></tr> <tr><td>100 or more</td><td style="text-align: center;">5.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Match Percentage (cash and in-kind)	Score	30-39	1.5	40-49	2.0	50-59	2.5	60-69	3.0	70-79	3.5	80-89	4.0	90-99	4.5	100 or more	5.0	5
Match Percentage (cash and in-kind)	Score																				
30-39	1.5																				
40-49	2.0																				
50-59	2.5																				
60-69	3.0																				
70-79	3.5																				
80-89	4.0																				
90-99	4.5																				
100 or more	5.0																				
<p>8. Received Federal Funding that Supports Critical Infrastructure</p> <p>Preference points shall be awarded to a project eligible under this solicitation that is also receiving federal funding that supports critical infrastructure, such as a water utility project, only if that federal funding is secure and in place. Applicants must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A signed letter from the applicable federal agency confirming the final award; • A copy of the project description receiving the federal award that demonstrates that a project eligible under this solicitation is included in the federal award; and • A description in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02) and/or other relevant attachment of any applicable executive orders, pending or resolved litigation, or other known factors that may terminate, 			5																		

Preference Points Scoring Criteria		Possible Points
<p>Applications must achieve all minimum passing Base Point scores for Scoring Criteria 1 - 5 to be eligible for the additional Preference Points (maximum possible 30 preference points).</p>		
<p>postpone, or otherwise interfere with the Applicant's receipt of, or completion of the project supported by, the awarded federal funding.</p>		
<p>9. Application Uses Services of Community Conservation Corps</p> <p>Preference points shall be awarded to applications including the use of services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, in the Project Narrative (Attachment 02).</p> <p>The CCC provides grant consultation services (see Section II.B.8. "Proposition 4 Directed Priorities" for more information). Applicants must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A signed Letter of Commitment from the conservation corps confirming services provided. 		<p>5</p>

V: ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

A. Cost of Developing Application

Applicants are solely responsible for the cost of developing applications. This cost cannot be charged to the State.

B. Applicants' Admonishment

This solicitation contains application requirements and instructions for a firm and acceptable proposal to be submitted by interested applicants. Applicants are responsible for carefully reading the entire solicitation, asking appropriate questions in a timely manner, submitting all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, and make sure all procedures and requirements of the solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.

C. Solicitation Cancellation and Amendment

It is the policy of the CEC not to solicit applications unless there is a bona fide intention to award an agreement. However, if it is in the State's best interest, the CEC reserves the right, in addition to any other rights it has, to do any of the following:

- Cancel this solicitation
- Revise the amount of funds available under this solicitation
- Amend this solicitation as needed
- Reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation

If the solicitation is amended, the CEC will post an addendum on [CEC's Solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations>. The CEC will not reimburse applicants for application development expenses under any circumstances, including cancellation of the solicitation.

D. Confidentiality

Though the entire evaluation process from receipt of applications up to the posting of the NOPA is confidential, all submitted documents will become publicly available records and property of the State after the CEC posts the NOPA or the solicitation is cancelled. The CEC will not accept or retain applications that identify any portion as confidential unless the applicant clarifies in writing that marking the material as confidential was a mistake and the material can be made public.

E. Solicitation Errors

If an Applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation, including any inconsistency between the solicitation and the instructions for attachments, at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. of the application deadline

date, the Applicant should immediately notify the CEC of the error in writing and request modification or clarification of the solicitation. The CEC will provide modifications or clarifications by written notice to all entities that requested the solicitation. If the error was noticed too close to the application deadline for the CEC to respond to all entities, the Applicant is responsible for addressing the error and explaining the rationale for how the application meets all reasonable interpretations of the requirements of the solicitation and/or attachments. The CEC will not be responsible for failure of the Applicant to timely seek modification or clarification of perceived errors.

F. Immaterial Defect

The CEC may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an application. The CEC's waiver will not modify the application or excuse an Applicant proposed for funding from full compliance with solicitation requirements.

G. Clarification Interviews

The Evaluation Committee may conduct optional Clarification Interviews with applicants to clarify and/or verify information submitted in the application. However, these interviews may not be used to change or add to the content of the original application. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time spent answering clarifying questions.

H. Opportunity to Cure Administrative Errors

The CEC understands and appreciates the significant time and expense applicants spend preparing applications. An administrative error that prevents an applicant from submitting a *complete* application frustrates both the CEC and applicants. The CEC may provide an opportunity to cure the administrative error, as described below. The purpose of this cure process is to reduce the number of applications screened out or receiving a significantly reduced score for administrative errors while maintaining a fair competition. This process also ensures better competition and thus better projects to benefit California.

After the application deadline, an applicant might identify, or the Evaluation Committee may find what reasonably appears to be, an administrative error. For purposes of this solicitation only, an administrative error is defined as an applicant's inadvertent mistake that prevents materials in existence as of the application deadline from appearing in its submitted application. Examples include, but are not limited to, accidentally:

- Scanning and submitting every other page in a document instead of every page.
- Submitting the wrong document.
- Leaving out a document.

If the Evaluation Committee finds what reasonably appears to be an administrative error, they can communicate with the applicant to confirm. If an applicant finds an administrative error in its application, it should immediately contact the Commission Agreement Officer listed in Section I.H "Contact Information."

If an administrative error has been identified and communicated to the Commission Agreement Officer, the CEC may, but is not required to, allow the applicant a time window to provide the missing materials. Reasons why the CEC might NOT allow an applicant to fix an administrative error include, but are not limited to:

- The funds have a deadline that does not allow time to fix the error.
- The application has been screened out or does not receive a passing score for reasons unrelated to the administrative error, making irrelevant any efforts to fix the error.
- The applicant brings the error to the CEC's attention too late in the solicitation process (e.g., after awards have been approved at a Business Meeting).

If the Evaluation Committee allows an applicant the opportunity to fix an administrative error, the Commission Agreement Officer will communicate in writing to the applicant's project manager listed the deadline by which the applicant must provide the missing materials. Reasonable efforts will be made to confirm receipt of the notice, but actual notice cannot be guaranteed and the obligation is on the applicant to ensure the proper contact(s) are listed and available to respond. The Evaluation Committee will not consider any materials submitted after the deadline.

This process only allows applicants to submit materials in existence as of the application deadline. This process does NOT allow applicants to submit material created or modified after the application deadline. The CEC has sole discretion to determine whether materials submitted are eligible for consideration by the Evaluation Committee under this opportunity to cure.

Applicants must include the following certification along with the materials it submits to fix an administrative error and must explain why the materials were not provided due to an inadvertent administrative error:

"I certify on behalf of the applicant that the materials provided herein existed at the time of the application deadline, have not been modified since, and were not originally provided due to an inadvertent administrative error as described herein."

The Evaluation Committee is not responsible for finding, or communicating with the applicant about, any errors in an application. Applicants remain solely responsible for submitting applications, including any material submitted to fix an administrative error, that meet all solicitation requirements.

I. Documents Relied Upon and Related Websites

Applicants responding to this solicitation may want to refer to the following resources and documents:

1. California Natural Resources Agency. *Delivering a Successful Climate Bond: Requirements & Best Practices to Implement Proposition 4*. September 2025. [https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Bonds/Prop-4/10Oct2025 Climate Bond Implementation Guide.pdf](https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Bonds/Prop-4/10Oct2025%20Climate%20Bond%20Implementation%20Guide.pdf).

2. California Natural Resources Agency. *Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment: 2024 Climate Bond*.
<https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/docs/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>.
3. Proposition 4 Climate Bond Language: [Senate Bill 867](#) (Allen, Chapter 83, Statutes of 2024), The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB867.
4. Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) Tool:
<https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/>
5. Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map:
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09>
6. Spivey, Hudson, Ashley Emery, Erik Lyon, O'Shea Bennett, and Pamela Doughman. October 2023. *Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program Guidelines, First Edition*. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-300-2023-005-CMF.
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2023/distributed-electricity-backup-assets-deba-program-guidelines-first-edition>.