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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

	)	
Business Meeting	)	Docket No. 26-BUSMTG-01
_____	)	

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

In-person at:

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING
 715 P STREET, FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
 (Wheelchair Accessible)

The California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda proposed. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors. Commissioners may attend remotely in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2(j).

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<https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings>.

Reported by:
 Martha Nelson

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Siva Gunda, Vice Chair

J. Andrew McAllister, Commissioner

Noemi Gallardo, Commissioner

Nancy Skinner, Commissioner

STAFF

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Jesselyn Rosales

Angelica Ramos

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Ryan Young, Public Advisor

Jessica Bonitz, Deputy Public Advisor

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alon Doron, EV-SEg

Sarah Taheri, San Diego Gas and Electric

Brian Balderston, San Diego Super Computer Center, UC San Diego

Linnea Jackson, Hoopa Valley Tribe

David Franklin, Schatz Energy Research Center, Cal Poly Humboldt

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P R O C E E D I N G S

10:04 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

(Whereupon an introduction video is played and not
transcribed.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Good morning and welcome
friends. I'm David Hochschild, Chair of the California
Energy Commission. Today is June 22nd. I call this
meeting to order. Joining me are Vice Chair Gunda,
Commissioner McAllister, Commissioner Gallardo, and
Commissioner Skinner. We have a quorum.

Let's begin by standing for the Pledge of
Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited in unison.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: We'll begin with public
comment.

MR. YOUNG: Good morning and welcome. This is
Ryan Briscoe Young, the Energy Commission's Public Advisor.

The CEC welcomes public comment at its business
meetings. There will be multiple opportunities for public
comment today. This initial public comment period is for
any informational or non-voting items on the agenda. If
you'd like to make a comment on a voting item, we ask that
you wait for the dedicated public comment period for that
item to make your comment.

1 Now, for the instructions on how to notify us
2 that you'd like to make a comment this time. If you're in
3 the room, please use the QR code posted in the back or
4 visit the Public Advisor's table. If you're on Zoom,
5 please click on the raised-hand feature on your screen.
6 And if you're joining by phone, you want to press star nine
7 to raise your hand.

8 To ensure that we can hear from everybody and get
9 through the agenda, comments will be limited to two minutes
10 or less per speaker and one speaker per entity. You'll be
11 called upon when it's time for your comment. We ask that
12 speakers focus their comments -- their remarks on comments.
13 Q&A and other dialogue is available by contacting the
14 Public Advisor's Office.

15 Not seeing anybody in the room to wish to make
16 comments, so I'm going to transition to Zoom. And there
17 are no raised hands.

18 Chair, back to you.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right. Well, as a special
20 treat, we're going to begin today's meeting by recognizing
21 three remarkable women. One who is just joining us and two
22 who are retiring after really distinguished careers.

23 So with that information, I'd like to begin with
24 our new Deputy Public Advisor, Jessica Bonitz, who begins
25 her new role today. She's been serving as a Deputy

1 Attorney General in the Land Use and Conservation Section
2 at the California Department of Justice under Attorney
3 General Bonta since 2022. And she previously held multiple
4 positions here at the Energy Commission from 2015 to 2019
5 as a student assistant, as an energy analyst and planner.

6 And so, Jessica, it's a thrill to welcome you
7 back, and we welcome any comments you'd like to make.

8 MS. BONITZ: I just quickly want to say thank
9 you. Thank you to Governor Newsom and to you, Chair
10 Hochschild, for the appointment. I'm so excited to be
11 here. It was a great experience at the Department of
12 Justice, but coming back here is very much like a
13 homecoming for me. So very excited to continue with
14 supporting just all these innovative programs and just
15 thank you for the opportunity.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, I would just note, you
17 know, you also played a really important role in your
18 previous tenure here in standing up the Tribal Program at
19 the Energy Commission when that was getting going in the
20 early days, so especially happy to welcome you back. And
21 also, as we all know, there are justice issues associated
22 with energy. So your background in the AG's office will be
23 really helpful in your next tenure here. So let's give her
24 a round of applause.

25 (Applause)

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Next, if I could have Angelica
2 come on up for a minute. Angelica Ramos is retiring after
3 35 years, and she is someone who kind of runs toward the
4 burning building. Whatever needs to be fixed, she jumps
5 in. She's helped rescue me in the Chair's Office. She's
6 served with ERDD and the Efficiency Division. And we're
7 just really grateful for your service.

8 So anything you'd like to share?

9 Okay, let's give her another round of applause.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And finally, we have Josselyn
13 Rosales, who is retiring after 34 years in state service,
14 26 at the Energy Commission. She won the 2025 SEA Lifetime
15 Achievement Award, and her most recent role has been
16 leading ERDD's Portfolio Management Unit, which is
17 responsible for managing and overseeing the execution of
18 ERDD's grants and contracts and amendments on a whole bunch
19 of different functions. She's managed over \$3 billion of
20 grants during her tenure. And recently, you know, the
21 blocking and tackling that makes this place work wouldn't
22 be possible without people like you.

23 So we're incredibly grateful, and we want to
24 welcome you to make a few remarks.

25 MS. ROSALES: Hi. Thank you very much. This is

1 amazing, and I'm just really excited for my upcoming
2 retirement. And I'd like to just express my sincere
3 appreciation to our executive leaders, Division management
4 team for their steady guidance and support. I could not do
5 any of the work without the contributions of the division
6 team, as well as support from the Administrative Financial
7 Management Services Division. Together, we really built a
8 meaningful and great R&D Program.

9 So I appreciate everyone, and I'm just really
10 happy. Thank you.

11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I was just wondering,
14 that was a B, right, \$3.1 billion?

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Say that again.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: The amount of
17 contracts, the value of the contracts.

18 THE COURT: Yeah, that was \$3 billion with a B,
19 right.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I mean, most states
21 cannot say that their whole agencies have done that much
22 projects --

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes, thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: -- that may project,
25 that value over that many years. So --

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for highlighting
2 that.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: -- thanks to all of
4 you. Thanks.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I'll just echo those
6 comments. I turned 55 this weekend, double nickels, and
7 did some reflections on where I'm at in my life. And I
8 just feel overwhelming gratitude to be able to work with
9 such incredible colleagues. I mean, sitting on the dais
10 and just looking at this group, I mean, I'm so proud of
11 everybody. And everyone wakes up every morning trying to
12 make a difference, make things better. And I look around
13 at the team, the staff, the leadership, our chief counsel,
14 the Executive Director, all the staff, and I just feel so
15 lucky.

16 And so, you know, it's like, I think about it
17 like rafting. I'm a river guide, been guiding rivers for
18 35 years. And even the roughest rivers, you know, if you
19 got a good crew in your boat, you're going to be okay. And
20 that's how it feels. So very grateful.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right, before you go
22 too far, we do have a singer on the dais who's going to
23 lead us in singing happy birthday to the Chair. Will
24 everybody join us? All right.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Everybody? Okay. Go

1 ahead. I'm just saying, all right, mic's son.

2 (Happy Birthday is sung to Chair Hochschild)

3 (Applause)

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, thank you, guys.

5 And as another great birthday present, we get to
6 push out over \$50 million today.

7 Any other agency announcements from my
8 colleagues? Yes, Commissioner Gallardo.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Buenos dias. Good
10 morning, everyone.

11 Just wanted to do a quick acknowledgement that
12 Friday, June 19, was Juneteenth. That's a holiday that
13 marks the final enforcement of the Emancipation
14 Proclamation in the United States, ending slavery, which
15 was such a tragedy. So just wanted to acknowledge that.
16 So happy belated Juneteenth to everyone.

17 Thank you, Chair.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I also wanted to just
19 wish all the fathers a happy Father's Day, a little bit
20 late. But in particular, my advisor, Hughson Garnier, he
21 was just back from paternity leave, his first Father's Day,
22 so appreciate everyone. I'm lucky to have my father still
23 with us on the earth, getting up there, and just lots of
24 reasons to be grateful for all fatherly love, so thank you.

25 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Yes. All right, unless there's

1 anything else, we'll turn next to Item 3, Consent Calendar.

2 Do we have any public comment on Item 3?

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair.

4 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
5 Item 3. Again, to notify us that you'd like to make a
6 comment, please visit the Public Advisors table in the back
7 or use the QR code. If you're on Zoom, please click on the
8 raised-hand feature to let us know you'd like to make a
9 comment. And if you're joining by phone, please press star
10 nine.

11 Seeing none in the room, we're going to
12 transition to Zoom. Alon Doran, we're going to unmute your
13 line. Please unmute on your end. You're welcome to public
14 comments.

15 MR. DORON: Good morning. Alan Doran, A-L-O-N
16 D-O-R-O-N, with EV-SEg, E-V hyphen S-E-G.

17 Good morning, Commissioners. On behalf of EV-
18 SEg, thank you very much for your support of the Soda
19 Springs Project and the REV 2.0 program. We're proud to
20 bring reliable electric vehicle fast charging to a rural
21 undeserved stretch of I-80 corridor, and we're grateful to
22 the CEC staff, particularly to our agreement manager for
23 their professionalism throughout. We look forward to
24 executing the agreement and getting to work.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

2 Chair, there are no other commenters currently.

3 Back to you.

4 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: All right. No, thank you for
5 that comment. And just before we vote on Item 3, I'm just,
6 I'm looking at this one grant, SkyCool Systems, about
7 reflective coatings to reduce heat gain on buildings, and
8 it's just making me think of Art Rosenfeld. And one of the
9 visionary things he did when he was Commissioner was this
10 reflective requirement for roofing. And that has had a
11 huge benefit on energy savings. And I just find myself
12 grateful for the early leadership that was possible because
13 of the powers of this agency through code to make good
14 things happen, and that we're having to deal with energy
15 usage that's less now as a function of those codes, and we
16 can still, you know, continue to push the envelope forward
17 on that. That's what this grant is about.

18 But I just thought of Commissioner Rosenfeld, who
19 I was fortunate to get to know a bit before he passed away.
20 When I joined the Energy Commission, I was introduced to
21 him. He was retired then. But really, the godfather of
22 energy efficiency. And so, this grant is for you, Art.
23 You're looking down on us.

24 Unless there's other comments, I would -- oh,
25 yes, please, Commissioner Skinner.

1 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Thank you, Chair. Given
2 your reference, it's always amazed me that, well, clearly,
3 cool roofs and other strategies are in our Air Resources
4 Board plan for meeting our greenhouse gas emissions
5 reduction goals, and it clearly is part of our own codes.
6 But Nobel Laureate Stephen Chu and Art Rosenfeld, their
7 estimation of what, if this, if cool roofs were made
8 globally in all urban areas, that it could offset 24
9 billion metric tons of CO2. So it's quite remarkable. And
10 just within California alone, we could achieve like a 30
11 percent reduction in cooling needs, in AC needs in a
12 building, if we really had the extensive cool roofs.

13 So they really are a very important strategy
14 that, while we have made some progress on, we have not
15 really grabbed hold of it as we have with some of our other
16 strategies, so I was also very glad to see that particular
17 item on our agenda.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Just to point out that
19 the local codes, largely down in Southern California, do
20 have cool roof requirements. And in a way, that's most
21 appropriate to have that happen at the local government
22 level, because we do have 16 climate zones in California.
23 And the impacts of cool roofs do vary depending on sort of
24 the relative heating and cooling loads in a building. So,
25 a heating-dominated climate is less of a slam dunk for a

1 cool roof.

2 And so -- but the, I think, the big picture on
3 cool roofs is that whatever the particulars are at the
4 building level, what they do is they reduce the urban heat
5 island effect at larger scales, like at the -- that's why a
6 city would be, you know, really interested in that, such
7 that you can reduce ambient temperatures with cool roofs.
8 And not just cool roofs, but cool pavements, cool surfaces
9 generally, you can decrease the ambient temperature in a
10 city by 5 to 10 degrees, which right there, you've got a
11 huge cooling savings reduction. So I think summertime peak
12 loads sort of at scale, you know, so bigger than just the
13 building itself. But I think cool roofs are a key climate
14 strategy in that regard.

15 And I think those were the dots that Art started
16 to connect when he was focused on cool roofs. And, you
17 know, we're still building on his broad shoulders, so --

18 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Yeah. Well, before we vote on
19 this, I have to share my favorite Art Rosenfeld story. So
20 before hybrid vehicles had been even invented, he had done
21 this calculation that if he turned off his car engine at a
22 stoplight, he would save more fuel and reduce more
23 pollution. So he was driving and turning off the car at
24 the stoplight, then turning it back on again, because he'd,
25 at Lawrence Berkeley Labs, calculated that was a going to

1 save a little bit.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: He would also pick
3 up -- his family would get irritated, as I understand it,
4 but he would pick up hitchhikers --

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: -- because it would
7 improve the person miles traveled per gallon, and that was
8 another strategy employed. So --

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: One of a kind. One of a kind.

10 With that, I would welcome from Commissioner
11 McAllister a motion on Item 3.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Move Item 3.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from
14 Commissioner Gallardo?

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye.
17 Commissioner McAllister?

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Commissioner Skinner?

24 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote I as well. Item 3

1 passes unanimously.

2 Item 4, we are going to push to a future meeting,
3 correct, or is there anything else you'd like to say on
4 that? Oh, sorry, this will be later today --

5 MR. RANCHOD: Yeah.

6 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: -- but not now. Sorry. So,
7 we'll come back to that later in the agenda.

8 We'll turn next to Item 5, which is an
9 information item, the 2025 CEC Justice Access, Equity,
10 Diversity, and Inclusion Report Update, and I welcome Ryan
11 Young to present.

12 MR. YOUNG: Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair,
13 Commissioners, and other attendees. My name is Ryan
14 Briscoe Young, and I'm the Public Advisor with the Office
15 of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs.
16 The annual JAEDI Report is an opportunity for us to
17 highlight our work from 2025 towards advancing justice,
18 access, equity, diversity, and inclusion. This
19 presentation will focus on our agency's outward-facing
20 initiatives, also known as JAEDI-Out.

21 Next slide, please.

22 It's been more than 10 years since the CEC
23 formalized its commitment to diversity. In 2020 -- I'm
24 sorry, in 2015, the CEC adopted the Diversity Resolution.
25 It made the CEC's policy to advance equity and supplier

1 diversity by optimizing opportunities for participation and
2 benefits to diverse businesses and disadvantaged
3 communities. This resolution led to the Diversity Report,
4 which is now called the JAEDI Report, and has been
5 presented every year since 2016. The Diversity Resolution
6 was a catalyst for the next iteration of the Commission's
7 equity work.

8 In 2019, the CEC established the Inclusion,
9 Diversity, Equity, and Access Initiative to create an
10 approach that was more comprehensive to advancing these
11 principles. We wanted to focus on our external-facing
12 programmatic and internal workplace.

13 In 2021, the IDEA Initiative was later renamed to
14 JAEDI to reflect that justice is a key piece of the CEC's
15 work.

16 In 2022, the CEC requested public input and
17 guidance to create a comprehensive framework to embed
18 equity and environmental justice in its work. This
19 resulted in the JAEDI framework being embedded as part of
20 the Integrated Energy Policy Report, or IEPR, Update. This
21 update recommended to quote, "open up an informational
22 proceeding on equity and environmental justice to continue
23 formal dialogue with the public."

24 In 2024, the CEC established the JAEDI
25 informational proceeding to continue this dialogue. The

1 JAEDI proceeding is a crucial step towards developing a
2 comprehensive JAEDI Action Plan. All this work is due in
3 large part because of the CEC's leadership, our Chair, and
4 Commissioners. I'd especially like to recognize the
5 leadership of our JAEDI champion, Commissioner Gallardo.

6 The JAEDI -- oh, next slide, please.

7 The JAEDI informational proceeding had its first
8 workshop in 2024 in September, where the purpose of the
9 proceeding and its objectives were explained. An overview
10 of the JAEDI framework was also presented. CEC staff
11 discussed how JAEDI principles are being embedded in CEC
12 programs and policies. This workshop enabled public input
13 regarding how the CEC should continue advancing equity and
14 environmental justice in its efforts.

15 There were two workshops last year, one in April,
16 2015, and a second in the fall. This proceeding's second
17 workshop explored ways to enhance public input from justice
18 communities and key partners in shaping the state's energy
19 policies and programs. This workshop identified barriers
20 to participation, discussed inclusive engagement
21 strategies, and contributed to the community engagement
22 toolkit of the JAEDI Action Plan. This proceeding's third
23 workshop was designed to update, refresh, and re-socialize
24 a range of tools and strategies to integrate into our
25 policies, programs, and decision-making as part of a

1 broader effort to gather input for updating and adopting
2 the JAEDI Action framework, as well as drafting the Action
3 Plan.

4 Next slide, please.

5 This slide and the next summarize new investments
6 that we tracked in 2015 -- 2025, excuse me, that have gone
7 towards justice communities, which are defined in the JAEDI
8 framework and include disadvantaged and low-income
9 communities. These communities have historically been
10 under-invested in, left out, or harmed by policies of the
11 past.

12 As you'll notice, all the programs here listed
13 are investing in the double digits, ranging from 65 percent
14 on the low end to 100 percent on the high end. Clean
15 Transportation Program, or CTP, has 65 of its investments
16 go to justice communities. Other programs on this slide
17 are for the Energy Research and Development Division, or
18 ERDD. This program data is for technology demonstration
19 and deployment projects, and these percentages do not
20 include, notably, combustion projects.

21 The CEC has received feedback from the
22 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group and community
23 groups over the years, and communities don't consider
24 combustion projects as benefiting disadvantaged and low-
25 income communities.

1 The rest of the programs will be covered in
2 detail, but I'd like to highlight the EPIC Program,
3 uplifting that 72 percent of investments went to justice
4 communities this year. The Carbon Removal Innovation
5 Support Program, or CRISP, had 100 percent of its
6 investments go to these communities.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Reliable -- sorry. Reliability, Renewable
9 Energy, and Decarbonization Incentives Division, or RREDI,
10 has continued targeted investments across many programs,
11 and once again, they have their own slide this year. For
12 RREDI, up to 100 percent of program investments went to
13 justice communities last year in some key programs. This
14 shows the CEC's commitment to energy equity and to do more
15 in these communities. The Energy Conservation Assistance
16 Act Program, or ECAA, 100 percent of its investments went
17 to disadvantaged communities. The BUILD program provides
18 100 percent of its incentives to new low-income housing,
19 both multi-family and single-family. And the Division's
20 Home Retrofit Programs also invest in these communities.

21 Switching gears, the next couple slides -- or the
22 next slides will cover the CEC's efforts on supplier
23 diversity.

24 As mentioned earlier, the CEC's Diversity
25 Resolution demonstrates our agency's leadership and

1 commitment to supplier diversity. A diversity of
2 contractors brings a variety of thought, talent, and
3 perspective that benefit CEC and all Californians.

4 This slide highlights the work done by the CEC's
5 Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise
6 Advocate Office, based in our Administrative and Financial
7 Services Division. The focus of this work is on contracts
8 for non-IT goods and services with small businesses and
9 disabled veteran business enterprises. In 2025, the CEC
10 issued 221 contracts to small businesses, amounting to \$26
11 million in spend. The CEC also issued 34 contracts to
12 DVBES, which amounted to \$2 million.

13 Additionally, the CEC aims to increase awareness
14 of our contracting and networking opportunities through our
15 Empower Innovation platform. As an example of the reach of
16 this program, as of June of this year, it has 5,500
17 members, with more than 500 members just last year. There
18 are more than 1,500 diverse organizations signed up, which
19 is a 2,000 increase from last year.

20 Next slide, please.

21 In 2025, the CEC continued to actively engage
22 with the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, or
23 DACAG. We're excited to have particularly one new member
24 who joined the DACAG at the end of 2025, Councilman Michael
25 Vasquez with the Pechanga Band of Indians. Since his first

1 meeting, he's been hitting the ground running and is
2 contributing to the dialogue.

3 We also have exciting new leadership that's
4 bringing forth new perspectives and priorities. Just last
5 year, the CEC engaged with the DACAG at monthly public
6 meetings and also subject matter meetings on a variety of
7 projects and topics. These topics include transportation,
8 electrification, building decarb, offshore wind efficiency,
9 and more. Later this year, DACAG is planning on bringing
10 it to the business meeting and present their 2025 annual
11 report.

12 Next slide, please.

13 The CEC works to support California Native
14 American tribes in their pursuit of tribal energy
15 sovereignty and tribally-led clean energy projects. In
16 2025, there was significant work in funding, policy
17 development, and convenings.

18 In funding, the Commission worked to advance
19 guidelines for the Equitable Building Decarb program. At
20 \$30 million, this program brought the overall funding to
21 California Native American tribes up to more than \$165
22 million. The dots in this map represent tribal funding
23 recipients.

24 The Equitable Building Decarb Program also
25 contains many firsts informed by the tribes who co-

1 developed the program, including being the first program in
2 the CEC where all tribes will receive a base allocation.

3 The CEC also advanced significant work in 2025
4 around policy development. In March of 2025, the CEC
5 opened its informational proceeding on tribal affairs and
6 energy sovereignty. This began a statewide series of
7 meetings with tribes, with 11 California Native American
8 tribes, partnering to co-host regional roundtables
9 throughout the state to inform forthcoming energy
10 sovereignty policy. The first of these meetings was held
11 in partnership with Toloa Dineen (phonetic) Nation and one
12 of the roundtables was hosted with the Pala Band of Mission
13 Indians and the Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative, as
14 you can see above.

15 The CEC also held additional convenings to dive
16 into some of the topical areas the tribes identified as
17 priorities. This included a statewide tribal energy summit
18 on energy -- on the tribal energy economy, which covered
19 economic and workforce development, as well as the picture
20 here on the right. During all these initiatives,
21 throughout every division and small offices, the CEC worked
22 to ensure tribes were at the table, informing investment
23 plans and funding opportunities like EPIC 5, weighing in on
24 significant policy areas like Senate Bill 100 and Assembly
25 Bill 3, and weighing in on siting projects through robust

1 tribal consultation.

2 Next slide, please.

3 This slide provides a quick overview of two of
4 the JAEDI-Out activities the CEC has been working on this
5 year and will continue to work on. We'll continue to
6 fulfill the goals of the JAEDI informational proceeding and
7 expecting further policy development in a workshop this
8 fall. We'll also update the JAEDI framework itself, which
9 will be informed by the new CNRA environmental justice
10 policy titled Helping All Californians Thrive. And later
11 this year, we'll start the development of the JAEDI Action
12 Plan. Most immediately, we'll be having a workshop on June
13 30th centering energy equity and environmental justice
14 throughout the CEC. This workshop is part of the 2026
15 update of the IEPR.

16 And this concludes my presentation on the JAEDI
17 initiatives for 2025. Thank you, Commissioners.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Ryan. And
19 again, really appreciate your work and that of your office
20 to support all these initiatives.

21 Over to Commissioner Gallardo.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, I'll say bravo,
23 Ryan. You stepped in and stepped up and really leaning
24 into this job, helping lead us on these efforts, and so I'm
25 really grateful to you. And I also want to recognize,

1 you've been a great partner to CNRA. I've heard from Noaki
2 Schwartz, who's the deputy there on equity, that the CEC
3 always comes through. CEC is one of the models. And I
4 think you've been helping us make sure that we stay up
5 front on those things.

6 I also wanted to point out to the Commissioners
7 that the focus today, Ryan's report, was on JAEDI-Out.
8 Carousel Gore will come later this year, hopefully in the
9 next month or two, to give the report on JAEDI In, which is
10 more focused on our internal efforts to advance these
11 principles.

12 And then, also, I wanted to note for the
13 Commissioners that this is the 10th anniversary of us
14 reporting on our efforts on equity and environmental
15 justice. So that started before my time. The report --
16 the resolution that Ryan mentioned in his report, was done
17 in 2015. Chair, I think you were a Commissioner then, but
18 you were championing that, if I remember correctly. And
19 then when I came in on 2019, I also took up the mantle of
20 because I thought it was such a great step to have done the
21 resolution and we wanted to make sure that we kept telling
22 everyone what type of work we were doing.

23 And I want to note that with DACAG, it's been
24 such a great group to have. They've provided such robust
25 input in helping guide us on all of our efforts here at the

1 Energy Commission. Our Tribal Program has been phenomenal.
2 It's gotten stronger every single year. Really excited for
3 Jessica to be able to come back and see that. We're
4 investing in the millions for tribal-led projects, and also
5 those projects are throughout the state. And then I also
6 wanted to acknowledge on the Equitable Building Decarb
7 Program, how there's allocation to every single tribe.
8 That's incredible, and so glad that you've been a leader on
9 that, Commissioner McAllister, in helping us make sure that
10 we're investing properly.

11 And then I also wanted to note for the
12 Commissioners that when I started as Public Advisor, we
13 were not investing as much as we are now. When we were
14 doing our investments, even through EPIC, the numbers were
15 smaller. In some programs, it was even in the single
16 digits. And now almost every single program, if not every
17 single program, is investing in the double digits and
18 really high. We are seeing 100 percent on several of those
19 programs, even the programs that where there is no
20 requirement to invest in disadvantaged communities or in
21 low-income communities.

22 So we're going all out here at the Energy
23 Commission. I'm really proud of that and want to make sure
24 we emphasize it because we don't want to take it for
25 granted. It's just something we do now, but still we need

1 to celebrate that.

2 And then, Ryan, I also want to note that really
3 grateful to you and proud of the work you're doing,
4 particularly on the informational proceeding. I think it's
5 going to be wonderful for that workshop on June 30th to
6 hear more about what you're planning. I think we have some
7 special speakers, also, for that workshop. Do you want to
8 say a little bit about them --

9 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: -- to get people excited
11 about going?

12 MR. YOUNG: We have invited and thankfully
13 they've accepted, there's two pretty notable speakers with
14 a history of environmental justice and being thought
15 leaders in the field. The first is Manuel Pastor, Dr.
16 Manuel Pastor from USC. Well, many of us know his work.
17 It's foundational to much of what we do today.

18 Similarly, Arsenio Mataka recently rejoined us
19 from the last federal administration and is now a Bay Area
20 Air Quality Management District. He was a Brown
21 administration veteran and really an ally, inside outside
22 ally to many of us that were external advocates at one
23 time. Really happy he's back in California and he too was
24 a champion for the original CalEnviroScreen and is superb
25 when it comes to the strategy of preserving and

1 institutionalizing such a tool.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much. I'm
3 excited for that workshop, so thanks again for leading
4 that, for putting together such a good agenda. And I'm
5 also looking forward to what you're going to do with the
6 update on the JAEDI framework that we have and also on our
7 Action Plan, which I think will be great for visibility to
8 all the public to see what all the good things that the
9 Energy Commission is working on.

10 I also want to note, when I was Public Advisor,
11 one of my hopes was that every single division would be
12 doing this type of work because at that time we would
13 always point to the EPIC Program as like our key program
14 that was advancing equity and environmental justice. And
15 now every single division is doing something which is,
16 again, just excellent and really proud of.

17 So I'll turn it to you.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Before we go on, just
19 actually, Ryan, can I ask you to pull back up the slide
20 that shows the percentages of investment by division that
21 you had there? Do you have that? Yeah.

22 And then Commissioner Gallardo, I just want to
23 note your incredible role from -- actually it predates your
24 being a Commissioner, but really when you were Public
25 Advisor, to helping push this whole effort. It's been

1 incredible and you really infused that into the Commission
2 and into the work more broadly and into the field. So I
3 just want to note your leadership on that.

4 And just to say one other thing, too, which is I
5 feel in our country, you know, there are these words that
6 have now kind of become these trigger words, equity and so
7 on. And it's really unfortunate because this stuff is so
8 clearly just good for the state and good for the nation and
9 it's indicated, it's justified, it makes sense, you know,
10 that the communities that are borne the greatest burden of
11 pollution should be prioritized in our investments.

12 And what we're trying to do, you know, writ large
13 is advance the energy transition. And so that means when
14 we're building things at scale, whether it's EV charging or
15 any number of these other clean technologies, to be able to
16 deploy those first in priority communities, you know,
17 achieves both goals. It really supports the communities
18 that have had to bear the greatest burdens of pollution and
19 it helps with the larger transition to clean sources, which
20 benefits everybody.

21 So I just really want to validate, you know, this
22 course of action that we're on. And I recognize it is
23 expressed in every single division at the Energy
24 Commission, every single one, and roughly across the state
25 now too. So as we transition to, you know, a new governor

1 and administration, you know, our commitment is to do
2 everything we can to continue to support that.

3 So let me pass it to you, Vice Chair, Gunda.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair.

5 I just wanted to start, Ryan, thank you, you
6 know, to you for the presentation, but also your
7 leadership, you know, at the PAO. It all kind of starts,
8 you know, with having, you know, clarity at the leadership
9 level.

10 I also want to uplift Fabi, you know, for taking,
11 you know, kind of the reins on the leadership on this
12 important part. It's really good to see kind of a, you
13 know, decade of work and the cumulative impact of all the
14 pieces that the Energy Commission has been able to do. You
15 know, the investment numbers look really positive,
16 impactful. And I really extend my gratitude to DACAG and
17 colleagues in the Public Advocate's Office and also, I
18 think, other agencies who share a similar spirit and kind
19 of the momentum that we are gaining by having a one-state,
20 you know, one-team kind of play here on this important
21 piece.

22 I also want to uplift, you know, Commissioner
23 Gallardo. I think, you know, it's, you know, for me, you
24 know, these kind of transformational pieces are not one
25 time and done. It needs sustained effort. Most often they

1 are not funded, so you need to have people who are going to
2 put sweat equity into making these things happen. And I
3 just feel like, you know, with Commissioner Gallardo and
4 kind of the leadership that came together, the Executive
5 Office, the Chair's Office, the Commissioner's Offices and
6 division leadership, I think it has been a sustained
7 effort.

8 I was in -- I was staff in, you know, in EAD, and
9 when we first started talking about this, it was not easy
10 to think about how a modeling unit in EAD could think about
11 making a difference, you know, but I think we -- I remember
12 having a lot of conversations and, oh, yeah, you have data.
13 Make data more accessible so the decisions are made with
14 more transparency. Make sure we run more scenarios so we
15 can understand the impacts on different communities. So I
16 think it has been really marvelous to watch the journey and
17 I just wanted to uplift the overall momentum on this.

18 I think I wanted to just leave it in the spirit,
19 you know, as kind of, you know, an immigrant into the
20 state, coming and trying to, you know, share my expertise,
21 my commitment, I think it's really -- the core of the JAEDI
22 and the work that we do here is making sure everybody who
23 wants to shoulder the burden of making lives better for
24 Californians have an opportunity to do so. They can lean
25 in with their shoulder to bear that weight, and also share

1 in the benefits and the results of, you know, the great
2 economy and the positive outcomes.

3 So I think, you know, no matter who it is, where
4 you come from, what you do, I think every Californian has
5 to feel the opportunity to weigh in and uplift the state
6 and share in the benefits, and I think this kind of work
7 really is towards that.

8 And I wanted to kind of just make sure, as the
9 Chair mentioned, you know, we had -- you know, we are
10 transitioning away from a legacy energy system, which did
11 improve the economy of California, but it also came with
12 certain downsides, specifically to communities that bore a
13 lot of those. I think it's important as we build a new
14 system that we learn from the past and make the system
15 better, more equitable, more accessible to everybody, and I
16 think at the core of all this is that work. And I just am
17 super, super appreciative for all the work, and this team
18 and everybody in this room and the public for their support
19 on doing things like this.

20 So with that, thank you all, and I'll pass it to
21 Commissioner Skinner or Commissioner McAllister.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Sure, McAllister.

23 Commissioner Gallardo, did you want to say one
24 thing?

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, I just want to make

1 sure we thank the entire team. So, Vice Chair Gunda, I
2 think you're right, it's Ryan, Fabi, Sierra, Dorothy,
3 Davina, Sarah, Jamie, Kim. It's grown into a really strong
4 team, especially with you at the helm, Ryan, and then
5 Jessica coming on board too, I think we're going to do even
6 greater, bigger things and really excited to support you
7 all on that effort.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, I just want to
10 thank Ryan and the whole team. I was going to thank the
11 whole team as well. I think, you know, this really,
12 building this muscle has taken time and there's always more
13 to do.

14 But I think just the commitment from the very top
15 of the agency to lean these issues and just make sure that
16 we're not value engineering, you know, the stuff that's
17 hard out of everything we do, and I just think, you know,
18 certainly EBD, the guidelines reflect that commitment, all
19 the tribal work we're doing and just the fact that we're
20 really trying to protect this conversation in each forum
21 that we work in is a reality in the agency. And it makes
22 me really proud because I think, you know, things that are
23 hard. Sometimes they sort of, you know, over time, the
24 drive and the motivation dissipates, and I think we just
25 haven't let that happen here and we're not going to, and I

1 think it's just, it speaks volumes to our team and our
2 agency and our leadership.

3 Thanks to the Chair for just really making sure
4 that we all have the breath to do the work that needs to be
5 done to listen and to build, keep strengthening this
6 muscle, you know, because there's a lot to do and there's
7 always going to be a lot to do here.

8 So thanks, Ryan, for making sure it gets done
9 right.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah. Great. Thank you.

11 And I'll just close by saying what I would like
12 us to do more going forward is to do a few more of these
13 information items. I think it's really helpful to. We
14 have been voting out so many projects, and some I have
15 discussed with our chief counsel and executive director as
16 well.

17 So I do want to flag a couple information items
18 that I have teed up for the next meeting or two. One is a
19 new battery storage manufacturing facility here in
20 Sacramento, Peak Energy, which is a GM-funded sodium-ion
21 battery facility, \$79 million. It's opening in two weeks
22 by the Sacramento Airport. And then we have another
23 information item the following month. Jen, I think, is
24 setting, getting these on calendar with an expert on the
25 energy transition from Germany because they're doing all

1 the same things we're working on, on heat pumps and
2 renewables and EV charging and so on.

3 But I just wanted to welcome suggestions from my
4 colleagues, as well, if you have other information items.
5 I think it's a really good time to just build in a good
6 grip of those into our voting meetings.

7 Yeah, Vice Chair.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Jen, I think, you know, I just
9 wanted to share a little bit. You know, there is a group
10 at the Energy Commission within EAD, but again, in
11 combination with PAO and a number of others, that have been
12 working on the non-energy impacts. And thanks to
13 Commissioner Gallardo on helping shape that conversation as
14 well.

15 And I think it's really, you know, one of the
16 core elements that keeps coming from that is no matter what
17 we do in state's planning, the planning usually is not
18 disaggregated enough. It's happening at a system level.
19 So when you do planning at the system level, the impacts
20 that any single community feels is not well understood. So
21 I think the point that keeps coming up as an opportunity
22 for us to move forward is how do we make sure the impacts
23 of the planning at a community level are actually
24 understood. So whether it's investments on clean
25 technologies, you know, if we're trying to put in a BESS

1 system in a local congestion area, would that help reduce
2 the emissions locally? Would that reduce, you know,
3 particulate emissions locally?

4 So I think there's a huge opportunity for us to
5 continue to think about the specific metrics that we don't
6 consider and, you know, whether it's temporally or
7 geographically, I think we can do much better as an agency
8 to continue to improve the conversation.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And then just in closing, just
10 seeing that slide with all the percentages reflected, I
11 mean, I'm really reminded of one of my favorite quotes from
12 President Biden, which said, you know, he said, "Don't tell
13 me what your values are, show me your budget and I'll tell
14 you what your values are." I really think that's true.
15 And I think our budget is a reflection of our values and
16 the fact that we're able to do these grants is really a
17 function of the values of the state and Governor Newsom and
18 the legislature.

19 So gratitude for all the leadership. Thank you,
20 Ryan.

21 With that, are we ready to go back to Item 4?
22 Yeah. Okay. We'll go back to the previous item, which was
23 Item 4, which was the information item, Eswatini Case
24 Study -- I've been to Eswatini, actually, years ago -- Oil
25 and Gas Storage Reserve Facility. And I welcome Bongekile

1 Matsenjwa. Am I pronouncing that right? Okay. Welcome to
2 you. Eswatini was formerly Swaziland in Southern Africa.

3 MS. MATSENJWA: Good morning, Commissioners.
4 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bongekile
5 Matsenjwa. I'm from --

6 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Can you try to just get right
7 up close to the mic there as close as you can speak into
8 it? That would be great. Thank you.

9 MS. MATSENJWA: Can you hear me now? Thank you.
10 My name is Bongekile Matsenjwa. I am from the Kingdom of
11 Eswatini, and I'm also a chemical engineering professional
12 with -- working currently in the oil and gas sector.

13 I am also a Humphrey Fellow, 2025 Humphrey
14 Fellow. I'm being hosted by the University of California
15 in Davis. And for those who might not know, the Humphrey
16 Fellowship Program is a full-ride program that is sponsored
17 by the U.S. Department of State, and it provides mid-career
18 professionals from designated countries outside the U.S.
19 the opportunity to undertake non-degree graduate programs,
20 studies, leadership training, professional collaboration in
21 the U.S.

22 So as part of my fellowship program, I receive a
23 professional affiliation from the California Energy
24 Commission where I worked for about seven weeks with the
25 Office of the Vice Chair, Siva Gunda. This professional

1 affiliation enabled me to gain theoretical and practical
2 skills in California's petroleum markets and infrastructure
3 policy development. I'm grateful for the opportunity given
4 to me by Siva Gunda, as well as his team.

5 Next slide, please.

6 During my time at the CEC, I've learned about the
7 challenges facing the state of California with regards to
8 the petroleum transition. These challenges include the
9 decline in refining capacity in the state and the
10 increasing reliance on marine imports for petroleum
11 products. There is definitely a need for the state to
12 clearly articulate a framework for addressing sudden and
13 acute fuel supply disruption. And as the state continues
14 to establish zero emissions and clean energy future, there
15 is a need to develop a clean energy transition plan for the
16 petroleum sector.

17 Next slide, please.

18 While working with the CEC, I found a lot of
19 similarities between the petroleum sector here in
20 California and that of the Kingdom of Eswatini. These
21 similarities include challenges in sourcing of petroleum
22 products and consistency in meeting the demand for these
23 products. My presentation today hopefully will highlight
24 some lessons on how we as the Kingdom of Eswatini have
25 ensured security and consistency in meeting the demand for

1 petroleum products while working towards a clean energy
2 future.

3 For those who might not know, the Kingdom of
4 Eswatini is in Southern Africa, and it shares borders with
5 South Africa and Mozambique. It has a population of just
6 over 1.2 million people, and the transportation industry
7 relies solely on gasoline and diesel. The daily demand for
8 gasoline and diesel is about 1 million liters per day,
9 which is about 264,000 gallons, compared to the 36 million
10 gallons per day for California. Therefore, a disruption in
11 supply of fuel negatively impacts the Kingdom of Eswatini's
12 economy. It is imperative that as a country, we have a
13 consistent supply for fuel.

14 Worth noting is that currently there is no
15 refinery taking place in the Kingdom of Eswatini, and
16 therefore 100 percent of all petroleum products are
17 imported from South Africa, where we source 40 percent --
18 60 percent from South Africa and 40 percent from
19 Mozambique.

20 Next slide, please.

21 In 2020, the Kingdom of Eswatini experienced its
22 biggest supply shock during the COVID-19 pandemic, and fuel
23 could not be imported as borders were closed. In response
24 to the supply shock, the government of the Kingdom of
25 Eswatini established the National Petroleum Company to

1 construct and manage a storage reserve facility to store
2 petroleum products in order to meet the country's demand as
3 well as respond to emergencies.

4 The Eswatini National Petroleum Company, or ENPC,
5 is 100 percent owned by the government of Eswatini, and it
6 reports directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources and
7 Energy, who is responsible for ensuring consistent supply
8 of petroleum products in the country. The Eswatini Energy
9 Regulatory Authority is a government entity that manages
10 and regulates the petroleum sector in the country.

11 Worth noting is that the Kingdom of Eswatini also
12 has international oil companies that trade as wholesalers
13 in the country. These oil companies manage their own
14 storage terminals and retail stations in the country, and
15 they form parts of the Eswatini Petroleum Association,
16 which is a non-profit trade association that serves as a
17 link between governments, as well as the oil companies.
18 The sole responsibility of the Association is to
19 disseminate accurate information on industry issues,
20 providing a forum for exchange of ideas on petroleum
21 matters.

22 Moving on to the next slide.

23 What is key and worth noting is that the price of
24 fuel as well as the quality in Eswatini is standardized and
25 regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy.

1 That means that the Ministry defines the retail and
2 wholesale prices for both gasoline and diesel in the
3 country and collects taxes and levies for every liter of
4 fuel sold.

5 The oil companies are mandated to sell fuel at
6 the same price that is defined by the Ministry. The
7 Ministry defines the price of fuel by benchmarking with
8 global markets and takes into account the cost of storage
9 and distribution and in determining the prices.

10 In addition, through the taxes and levies
11 collected by the Ministry, the Ministry was able to develop
12 a petroleum fund which is used to subsidize and cushion the
13 country from global price hikes. The Eswatini Energy
14 Regulatory is responsible for development and enforcement
15 of petroleum standards and regulations, licensing of oil
16 companies as well and ensuring compliance within the
17 industry.

18 In addition to managing the Storage Reserve
19 Facility, the Eswatini National Petroleum Company is also
20 responsible for exporting, importing, and trading of all
21 petroleum products in the country. Oil companies are
22 mandated to source a certain percentage of their volume
23 from the Eswatini National Petroleum Company.

24 Moving on to the next slide.

25 Prior to establishing the Eswatini National

1 Petroleum Company, the government of Eswatini relied on oil
2 companies to ensure a consistent supply of fuel in the
3 country. However, these oil companies did not have
4 sufficient infrastructure to store fuel for more than three
5 days. That meant that the country only had three days to
6 source fuel before the terminals dried out. This was a big
7 risk for the country as the country could not respond to
8 supply disruptions.

9 Having a storage reserve
10 facility was an emergency for the country. The government,
11 therefore, used the levies and taxes collected from the
12 fuel sold in the country to establish the Eswatini National
13 Petroleum Company. And instead of funding the construction
14 of the storage reserve facility purely on a loan, the
15 government was able to use part of the money collected from
16 taxes and levies towards the construction of the facility.

17 As part of its strategic goals for the future,
18 the National Petroleum Company is projecting -- or is
19 planning to construct a refinery, as well as fuel retail
20 stations in remote areas in Eswatini, to further increase
21 access and security of fuel supply in the country.

22 Moving on to the next slide.

23 As a government entity, it was important that the
24 Eswatini National Petroleum Company developed a business
25 model that did not compete with the oil companies in the
country. Therefore, in establishing the -- or constructing

1 the storage reserve facility, it was important that
2 government included all relevant stakeholders in developing
3 a business model that would be suitable for all
4 stakeholders in the country. Therefore, the business model
5 that ENPC used sought to generate its own revenue while
6 also supporting the trade of fuel in the country. In
7 addition to that, ENPC, or the Eswatini National Petroleum
8 Company, ensures that it supports oil companies by ensuring
9 reliability of supply of petroleum products.

10 The government conducted a financial feasibility
11 study and, from the feasibility study, it was determined
12 that a storage reserve facility enough to store fuel for 60
13 days would enable the National Oil Company to generate
14 revenue to pay for its operational expenses while also
15 managing fuel for emergencies, hence why the facility's
16 total storage reserve or total capacity is 80 million
17 liters. Of these 80 million liters, 60 million liters of
18 fuel is used for trading while 20 million liters is used
19 for emergencies.

20 The government is responsible for raising stock
21 during emergencies. To ensure that oil companies do not
22 dry out or run dry, all companies are required to buy and
23 store fuels at the facility enough to last for 14 days of
24 demand.

25 As part of the Decarbonization Plan, the

1 government also requires oil companies in the country to
2 sell gasoline that is blended with 10 percent ethanol, and
3 ENPC is the only company that is responsible for blending.
4 Therefore, the ENPC is able to generate revenue by trading
5 in fuel where oil companies are required to buy a certain
6 portion of their volume from the facility, as well as
7 collecting fees for every fuel -- for every liter of fuel
8 stored at the facility, as well as for every liter of
9 gasoline that is blended at the facility.

10 Moving on to the next slide.

11 The government has benefited from the reserve
12 facilities in various ways, the most one being that as a
13 government entity, ENPC is able to source fuel or import
14 fuel from anywhere outside the country and it uses
15 government-to-government relationships to source fuel at a
16 competitive price. This enables ENPC to then sell fuel to
17 local companies at an affordable price. In addition to
18 that, the storage reserve facility has ensured a security
19 of supply where the country is able to respond to
20 emergencies, as well as ensuring affordability of fuel in
21 the country.

22 Moving on to my last slide.

23 The construction of the storage reserve facility,
24 as I conclude, was Eswatini's government response to fuel
25 supply disruption. However, the storage reserve facility

1 has also enabled the country to manage the price and the
2 quality of the fuel in the country. In addition to that,
3 it has also provided a central fuel supply which enables
4 the country to effectively implement clean energy
5 initiatives for a successful energy transition.

6 What the Eswatini government has done in
7 centralizing the fuel supply and creating a reserve is an
8 example of how a country has approached fuel supply
9 reliability. Hopefully, the State of California can find
10 lessons from the Kingdom of Eswatini as it navigates its
11 transition.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

14 Let's go to Vice Chair Gunda.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair.

16 Bongekile, thank you so much for the
17 presentation. We had an opportunity to meet Bongekile at
18 the Humphrey Fellows lecture that me and Commissioner
19 McAllister sometimes we, you know, gave at UC Davis and was
20 really taken by her interest in thinking about, you know,
21 how the principles of the transition, the petroleum
22 transition, the price stability, price planning in her
23 country could yield some lessons to California.

24 So I wanted to bring up a little bit on, you
25 know, like the journey that we have been in California as a

1 context for, you know, other members of the dais who might
2 want to have questions or comments. So one of the elements
3 that, you know, the Energy Commission has put in our fuels
4 assessment, you know, a few years ago, you know, in terms
5 of enabling or facilitating the transition from a fossil,
6 you know, kind of heavy industry today or kind of the
7 transportation sector to maybe more electrified is to look
8 at, you know, multiple pathways of supply stability,
9 including a potential cost of service model. That was one
10 that we talked about. We talked about maybe potentially
11 the state coming into buy refineries as they close to
12 maintain price stability and supply reliability.

13 So we looked at, you know, the example of
14 Eswatini, especially given it's landlocked, don't really
15 have refineries, so dependent on its neighbors for supply
16 stability. And I think the -- I think what I take away
17 from Bongekile's work is really looking at the
18 operationalization of structures at a state level by
19 creating a department, you know, creating a business model,
20 you know, starting a company that allows for some level of
21 private and public intervention, so which is, which, to me,
22 is pretty fabulous. Some of the work that she did not
23 present today is how can we take those lessons and apply to
24 California, you know, based on a regulatory structure?
25 That's some of the work that she has been doing.

1 But I'm just super grateful for your time. Thank
2 you for spending time with us and giving eight, seven,
3 eight weeks of your expertise, looking at both your state,
4 but also an opportunity on how California could benefit
5 from that.

6 The last thing I want to share, we also have some
7 fellows at UC Davis who are working on the transition of
8 Thailand, working on transition of Turkey. So we're
9 looking at these international examples as a way to think
10 about how California can transition away in a way that
11 it's -- the supply is stable, prices are stable, and the
12 communities that currently bear a lot of these, you know,
13 emission impacts don't necessarily get overburdened.

14 So I think I'm super excited about these kind of
15 lessons. Every time I hear something like this, it's just
16 so helpful for us to think about the long-run process here.
17 So thanks again. Thanks for being here.

18 With that, Commissioner McAllister --

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: -- I'll pass it to you.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, Commissioner McAllister?

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah. Thanks.

23 Bongekile, thanks very much for the presentation. It was
24 lovely to meet you at lunch over at Vice Chair Gunda's
25 house not long ago, and the whole group, what an amazing

1 group. And I just commend UC Davis for sort of having
2 the -- creating the bandwidth and the flexibility and just
3 the program structure to allow all these interesting and
4 super knowledgeable professionals to come over from other
5 parts of the country. And I think we learned as much from
6 you, if not more than, you know, you learned from us, and
7 no doubt a great opportunity for you to be here and soak
8 everything up as well. So really enjoyed our
9 conversations.

10 Yeah, and sort of, you know, maybe not obvious
11 right out of the gate, but I think Vice Chair Gunda, you
12 summed it up well, where there are a lot of things that we
13 can -- there are parallels that we can learn from, you
14 know, very different sizes and, you know, histories and the
15 like and economic structures. But this idea that public
16 and private sectors have to work together well to
17 structure, to successfully sort of have the kind of social
18 services that are required for a modern economy, that is
19 most universal. And especially, I mean, these prices, you
20 know, are similar to California prices, are a little bit
21 higher, but yet that burden is far greater in an economy
22 that's a little bit, you know, sort of less articulated.

23 So yeah, just really learned a lot today, learned
24 a lot in our conversations and really appreciate getting to
25 know you. And I hope we can keep following up. Thanks.

1 And thanks to you too, Vice Chair Gunda, for
2 just, you know, your stepping into the Humphrey
3 Fellowships. I think these are just really great
4 experiences for all of us, so thank you.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Commissioner Gallardo?

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much for the
7 presentation. And congratulations on having this
8 opportunity and just the fact that you're maximizing it is
9 great and that we get to benefit from your expertise and
10 your insight and experience. I really appreciate that.

11 I wanted to highlight that I was part of a
12 delegation to Africa last year. And that was -- I think it
13 was really important that we did that. And we actually
14 signed MOUs with the countries of Kenya and Nigeria. And
15 those are the first times that California had signed
16 agreements of that sort with anyone on the African
17 continent. So I think there's some momentum here and I'm
18 excited that, you know, this relationship's developing and
19 we'll see what comes.

20 With Kenya, they have a lot of geothermal
21 development, which is exciting. And here in California,
22 we're talking more about how do we make geothermal
23 development successful. So I think that's a huge
24 opportunity. Nigeria is a petrol state, but they were also
25 wanting to see how they can decarbonize and excited about

1 microgrids in particular. So I think there's a lot of
2 opportunity between us and Africa just in general.

3 So I wanted to share that with you and also just,
4 again, congratulate you. And good job, Vice Chair Gunda,
5 for enabling these types of opportunities. And if you know
6 of any other students who want opportunities, my office is
7 also willing to receive.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Thank you for the
10 presentation and the research that you did. It's very
11 impressive that a country the size of Eswatini would be
12 pursuing this type of plan where the -- it would be a
13 state-run system with a refinery and such, but using,
14 basically, using the revenue that they're generating from
15 the imports now of the oil in order to get the ability to
16 realize these plans. So appreciate the presentation and
17 the research.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. MATSENJWA: Thank you.

20 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Yeah, just thank you as well.
21 And it's a beautiful country. I was there 30-plus years
22 ago. So thank you for that.

23 I just want to thank the Vice Chair, also, for
24 looking for wisdom and lessons and insights all over the
25 world. I mean, we have done that. You know, the 100

1 percent clean energy law was based on a statute passed in
2 Hawaii in 2015, which has just over a million people. And
3 we adopted that here in California in 2018. Our Offshore
4 Wind Program, you know, we learned an incredible amount
5 from Denmark and Scotland and Portugal and other places,
6 and Asia. And so it's just really important to go into
7 policymaking with a curious mind and an open approach and
8 learn everything that we can.

9 So I just really want to thank you for, you know,
10 being explorative and curious and looking at all these
11 other models, Vice Chair. Thank you.

12 And thank you.

13 With that, we'll turn next to Item 6, which is
14 Retail Sellers, Renewable Portfolio Standard Procurement
15 Verification Results Report Compliance 4.

16 Gina Barkalow?

17 MS. BARKALOW: Good morning, Chair Hochschild,
18 Vice Chair Gunda and Commissioners. I'm Gina Barkalow with
19 the Renewables Portfolio Standard Verification --

20 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Gina, if you can get right up
21 close to the mic --

22 MS. BARKALOW: Okay.

23 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: -- that would be great. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. BARKALOW: Thank you. I'm Gina Barkalow,

1 Supervisor of the Renewables Portfolio Standard
2 Verification Compliance Unit in the Sitings, Transmission,
3 and Environmental Protection, or STEP, Division. Today,
4 I'll be presenting the verification findings of the Retail
5 Sellers Procurement Verification Report, which I'll refer
6 to as Verification Report, for Compliance Period 4. This
7 report is ready for your consideration and adoption.

8 Next slide, please.

9 We wanted to begin by noting up front that the
10 Renewables Portfolio Standard, or RPS, is an instrumental
11 program, and so much of the work we do at the Energy
12 Commission hinges on its success. We are nearing the 25th
13 anniversary of the RPS, and this slide highlights some of
14 the critical pieces of legislation that established and
15 increased RPS procurement targets to where they are today.
16 Note this slide only highlights the RPS legislation that
17 increased required RPS procurement targets, not all
18 legislation that pertains to the RPS Program.

19 The original legislation, enacted in 2002,
20 required the state's retail sellers of electricity, which
21 today includes investor-owned utilities, IOUs, electric
22 service providers, ESPs, community choice aggregators,
23 CCAs, and small multi-jurisdictional utilities, SMJUs, to
24 procure minimum threshold percentages of renewables as part
25 of their electrical retail sales.

1 Subsequent legislation expanded the program. SB
2 X1-2, signed by Governor Brown in 2011, increased the RPS
3 requirement to 33 percent by 2020, introduced multi-year
4 compliance periods, made the RPS applicable to publicly-
5 owned utilities, or POU's, and established other procurement
6 requirements. Under previous legislation, POU's implemented
7 their own RPS Program and were not subject to state
8 oversight.

9 Jumping ahead, Commissioner Skinner, who was in
10 the legislature at the time, co-authored SB 100, the 100%
11 Clean Energy Act of 2018, which further accelerated the RPS
12 to 60 percent of retail sales by 2030, and requires an
13 average of no less than 60 percent RPS of retail sales for
14 each multi-year compliance period from there on.

15 Next slide, please.

16 The report presented here today for adoption
17 benefit both the program participants and the public by
18 providing verified data conclusions on renewable energy
19 procurement amounts made by California retail sellers
20 serving California electric ratepayers. If approved today,
21 the report will be transmitted to the California Public
22 Utility Commission, or CPUC, for determining retail
23 sellers' RPS compliance. And the report also benefits the
24 state by providing verified data to track California's
25 progress on our renewable energy and climate goals.

1 Next slide, please.

2 California represents the fourth largest economy
3 in the world and manages the nation's largest and arguably
4 most ambitious RPS in the country. The program has served
5 as the foundation and building blocks for decarbonizing the
6 electric sector as we move towards the state's 100 percent
7 renewable and zero-carbon energy system.

8 In 2023, approximately 43 percent of all electric
9 retail sales were renewable, according to staff in the
10 Energy Assessments Division, who use annual generation data
11 to derive these numbers. This graph goes back to the 1980s
12 when wind and solar were barely recognizable as
13 contributing resources.

14 Once the RPS Program was brought into existence,
15 as shown on the x-axis, we begin to really see a shift in
16 the contributions that wind and solar make in terms of
17 overall renewables, with both significantly exceeding all
18 other renewable resources today. I was here when the CEC
19 only verified claims for the retail sellers by year, and
20 the program was much simpler. Given the intermittency of
21 solar and wind, even CEC visionaries at the time saw the
22 challenge before us. Reflecting back, I believe some of
23 our former Commissioners would be very proud of the
24 progress California has made.

25 Other progress shown -- not shown on this chart

1 is that California met or exceeded goals, ambitious goals,
2 over the last 25 years, and spurred new and more efficient
3 technologies and reduced costs.

4 Next slide, please.

5 To help explain the RPS Program, this slide
6 breaks it down into clusters. California's RPS Program has
7 its complexities, but is quite elegant when it's distilled
8 down to its essential functions.

9 First, an RPS Program is a simple, highly
10 effective policy that requires electric load serving
11 entities to source a percentage of their total retail sales
12 from renewables. It's a long-term policy signal. The
13 requirement increases over time and doesn't sunset.

14 Starting with the left cluster, there are two
15 components for every megawatt hour of output from an RPS
16 facility, the electricity and the renewable energy credit,
17 or the REC, which represent the renewable attributes. RECs
18 can be claimed by the purchaser for compliance purposes,
19 corporate sustainability goals, or others, and the RECs can
20 be traded like any other commodity.

21 Moving to the middle cluster, the policy creates
22 a market where the majority of development is happening
23 through power purchase agreements, or PPAs. These PPAs
24 spur innovation and competition that helps control costs.
25 We value resource diversity, and the infrastructure

1 provides local and regional benefits through jobs, air
2 quality, and more.

3 The last overarching function is the regulatory
4 piece. We have tight standards for metering facilities,
5 which must report to an independent tracking system, the
6 Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System, or
7 WREGIS, that market participants and regulators rely on for
8 overseeing the program and determining compliance. I'm
9 pleased to report that WREGIS is functioning after a
10 challenging couple of years and progress is being made on
11 developing the new system.

12 Next slide, please.

13 The RPS is a statewide program and reaches beyond
14 California's borders. While the program highly values
15 facilities directly interconnected to California, renewable
16 facilities can be interconnected anywhere within the
17 Western Interconnection, which is represented on the right
18 side of the screen in red. The Western Interconnection is
19 comprised of 14 states, two Canadian provinces, and Baja,
20 California. There are approximately 4,500 RPS-certified
21 facilities. Approximately 3,500 of them are interconnected
22 to California balancing authorities, and the remaining are
23 interconnected within the Western Interconnection.

24 Also worth mentioning, the Solar Energy
25 Industries Association and Wood Mackenzie recently noted

1 that on the national level, solar and battery storage were
2 practically the only energy resources being built in the
3 first quarter of 2026, making up 91 percent of all new
4 generating capacity. The renewable market continues to
5 evolve and solutions to intermittency concerns are emerging
6 with battery storage.

7 Next slide, please.

8 Here, I'd like to call out RPS Supervisor Yosef
9 Saeed and the entire certification team. They've been
10 working diligently and in 2025 alone reviewed 700
11 applications and certified renewable capacity, totaling
12 approximately 15,000 megawatts, bringing California close
13 to 100 gigawatts RPS-certified capacity.

14 Next slide, please.

15 California's RPS Program has always been a
16 coordinated effort. As mentioned, here at the Energy
17 Commission, staff certify all RPS facilities, enabling them
18 to participate in California's RPS. For the 43
19 participating retail sellers and the 43 participating POUs,
20 RPS staff verify all procurement claims are from certified
21 facilities and not double counted, among other things.

22 Once our verification work for the retail sellers
23 is complete, which is where we are today, we present the
24 results at a business meeting, and upon approval transmit
25 the retail sellers verification report to the CPUC for

1 compliance purposes. CEC RPS staff also present
2 verification findings at CEC business meetings for the
3 POU's, and after that determine compliance for the POU's. In
4 rare instances where enforcement is needed, the CEC will
5 refer the POU to the California Air Resources Board for
6 their consideration.

7 Next slide, please.

8 The illustration here shows the RPS is situated
9 through long-term clean energy goals. Targets are
10 currently increased to 60 percent renewables by 2030 and
11 sustained as a minimum requirement thereafter. The state's
12 clean energy goals continue to 100 percent by 2045 through
13 further renewables and zero carbon resources. In
14 Compliance Period 4, represented by the green shaded area
15 of this illustration, load serving entities were required
16 to procure roughly an average of 40 percent of their retail
17 sales from eligible renewable energy resources over the
18 course of the compliance period.

19 Next slide, please.

20 RPS procurement volume has been growing over
21 time, and by Compliance Period 3, the growth in CCAs has
22 more than doubled since Compliance Period 1, and this is
23 why the volume of work before you today has increased so
24 much.

25 Next slide, please.

1 With that background, the next few slides focus
2 on the retail sellers. Presented here is a summary of the
3 retail sellers in Compliance Period 4, which covers years
4 2021 through 2024. Fifty retail sellers are subject to
5 California's RPS requirements. Seven retail sellers either
6 no longer serve load or did not serve load in Compliance
7 Period 4. This report covers the 43 retail sellers that
8 serve customer load and reported claims for Compliance
9 Period 4.

10 Next slide, please.

11 In the initial stage of verification, staff
12 verified that the reported claims were generated by RPS-
13 certified facilities. Staff then verified that all the
14 renewable electricity procurement claims combined did not
15 exceed the total annual generation amount from each RPS
16 facility.

17 Staff also checked to make sure that the RECs
18 were retired within the 36 months as required by statute.
19 Staff checked to make sure the RECs claimed are not double
20 counted, which is largely accomplished through the use of
21 WREGIS, which prevents RECs from existing in more than one
22 account at a time. RECs, once retired and reported to the
23 CEC, can only serve California's RPS. The verification
24 determination analysis then identified eligible,
25 ineligible, and withdrawn with REC claims for each year and

1 for the overall compliance period for each retail seller.

2 Next slide, please.

3 In CP 4, retail sellers make up the majority of
4 total RECs reported from all load serving entities, which
5 includes the POU's. And of that amount, the three large
6 investor-owned utilities make up approximately 46 percent
7 of RECs reported by retail sellers.

8 As noted earlier, Commission staff only determine
9 eligibility of the claims, which are included in the retail
10 sellers verification report. Once the report is approved
11 and transmitted to the CPUC, the CPUC will complete various
12 analyses and determine retail sellers' RPS compliance.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Moving quickly, the next few slides show the
15 diversity among the retail sellers, which are represented
16 in four groups. Each retail seller on this slide reported
17 over 10 million RECs, eligible RECs, in CP 4. This group
18 represents the largest of retail sellers.

19 The legend on the upper right-hand side of the
20 slide shows that the IOUs are represented in green,
21 community choice aggregators in blue, and electric service
22 providers in purple, and the small and multi-jurisdictional
23 utilities in yellow. Not surprisingly, the three largest
24 IOUs are in this grouping.

25 Next slide, please.

1 Each retail seller in this group has used between
2 1 to 10 million RECs in CP 4. We see ESPs and CCAs well
3 represented in this grouping.

4 Next slide, please.

5 In this grouping of retail sellers with less than
6 1 million RECs, again we see a lot of small CCAs and a mix
7 of ESPs and SMJUs.

8 Next slide, please.

9 The pie chart shows the breakout of CP 4-verified
10 retail sellers' procurement by resource type. Here, too,
11 we see that photovoltaic has taken over wind as the
12 prevalent renewable resource, consistent with the previous
13 slide on resources.

14 Next slide, please.

15 The draft verification report was posted with a
16 10-day public comment period. All 43 participating retail
17 sellers reviewed and accepted staff's findings prior to the
18 business meeting. Staff did receive comments from Marine
19 Clean Energy, MCE, requesting reclassification of 935 RECs
20 as eligible, consistent with prior staff approval, Silicon
21 Valley Clean Energy, SVCE, requesting 2,968 RECs marked as
22 ineligible be withdrawn. And with your approval, staff
23 will reflect these changes in the final version of the
24 verification report.

25 I also want to mention that Ava Community Energy,

1 Ava, submitted comments requesting CEC staff work with the
2 CPUC staff to address a potential timing disconnect between
3 the CPUC's voluntary allocation and market offer program
4 and RPS reporting and verification processes. CEC staff
5 will work with our CPUC counterparts to examine the issues
6 raised by Ava that might impact future compliance periods.

7 Next slide, please.

8 And on that note, with the updates requested by
9 the retail sellers during the public comment period and
10 staff's confirmation that changes are acceptable, staff
11 find the analysis results and conclusions outlined in the
12 verification report to be true and accurate. We request
13 that the Commission approve the requested updates and minor
14 editorial fixes, adopt the finding that the verification
15 report is not a project under CEQA or alternatively exempt,
16 and adopt the resolution approving the verification report
17 for RPS Compliance Period 4. Staff will then transmit the
18 final report to the CPUC for use in their CP 4 compliance
19 activities.

20 We thank you for your consideration of this
21 request and are happy to respond to questions. Thank you.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Gina.
23 Great job presenting all that.

24 Let's go to Commissioner discussion, starting
25 with Commissioner Gallardo.

1 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I agree, Gina, fantastic
2 presentation. I'd like to thank the RPS verification --

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh, I apologize. Sorry.
4 We're going to hear public comment first. My apologies.
5 Sorry.

6 Ryan?

7 MR. RUIZ: Thank you, Chair.

8 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
9 Item 6. To notify us that you want to make a comment on
10 this item, and if you're in the room, please use the QR
11 code posted in the back. If you're on Zoom, please click
12 on the raised-hand feature on your screen. And if you're
13 joining by phone, please press star nine.

14 I'll first see if there's anyone in the room that
15 wants to make a comment on this item. Seeing none, I will
16 transition to Zoom.

17 Also seeing none, back to you, Chair.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, as we were saying,
20 Gina, fantastic presentation. I do want to thank the RPS
21 verification and certification teams in the STEP Division
22 for all their work on RPS, which is one of our marquee
23 programs in California. And as Gina noted, Commissioners,
24 hopefully you heard that this program has been around for
25 almost 25 years. And it's because of programs like this

1 that we're now at 43 percent renewables and continuing
2 with, I think you said, 91 percent of new generation
3 capacity being renewables in 2026.

4 MS. BARKALOW: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: 2026.

6 MS. BARKALOW: Renewable battery storage, 91
7 percent nationwide.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: That's exciting.

9 MS. BARKALOW: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: So I do want to give a
11 shout out to the Chair and Commissioner Skinner for their
12 leadership on RPS. Also, thanks to Vice Chair Gunda and
13 his team for their contributions in supporting all of these
14 efforts.

15 And I want to note that the entire STEP Division
16 has been extra diligent handling so many different issues
17 that have been coming up last couple years, this year too,
18 and they've been breaking records finalizing compliance
19 period for reports. It has been less than a year since the
20 last year of CP 4 data was submitted and the team was able
21 to wrap up four years' worth of data verification that
22 required coordinating with retail sellers to get here
23 today. That's a lot of coordination, and also on top of
24 some of the delays that we were having regarding the WREGIS
25 reporting system. So again, thank you.

1 And then also notice that some comments came in
2 late due to some glitches we were having with our docket
3 system and you were still able to handle those even though
4 they came in late. So really appreciate that. And none of
5 those that came in late that Gina was talking about are
6 controversial, so we'll be able to handle those.

7 So again, I want to thank everyone for the great
8 work that they're doing, starting with STEP Director Regina
9 Galer, Deputy Director Sean Simon. And in particular, I
10 want to thank you, Gina, for leading the team so well and
11 for your teammates, Kevin Chou, Chris Metzger, Sean Inaba,
12 Chang Zian Lau (phonetic), Sophia Bird, Grace Jiang, and
13 Julian Romstall (phonetic). And I apologize if I
14 mispronounce any of the names, but give you all credit for
15 all the hard work you're doing.

16 And also a big thank you to Chief Counsel's
17 Office for their support on this, Alan, Josie, and others
18 who are working on it.

19 And so with that, I recommend approving this
20 item.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I had a few comments to make,
22 unless, Vice Chair Gunda, please.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

24 Thanks, Gina, for the excellent presentation.
25 Just wanted to kind of, I think, mostly can share my

1 gratitude. As Commissioner Gallardo mentioned, it's a lot
2 of work. I think RPS verification is one of those tedious
3 jobs that's not really visible from the surface, you know,
4 like, you know, the -- for all data analysts, you know, the
5 final charts take about 10 minutes, but the cleaning and
6 making sure the data is accurate is probably 90 percent of
7 the work. So really appreciate the diligence. I think
8 it's a cornerstone on the clean energy transition for us.
9 And I think doing a good job, being accessible,
10 transparent, and also be able to tell a story is really,
11 really important.

12 I wanted to also kind of uplift your point on,
13 you know, the WREGIS kind of going on its own transition,
14 and your team not only working on that particular issue,
15 but also kind of keeping all that together. Sean, Regina,
16 and the entire leadership, thank you.

17 I think the piece that I wanted to kind of think
18 about as we move forward is there are some pieces that are
19 continuing to evolve. We have a 2030 60 percent goal that
20 we're going to continue to track towards. But as CPUC
21 looks at, you know, the RCPPP as the new paradigm, you have
22 the SB 100, you know, we have the RA resources that are
23 continuing to evolve in the design and the compliance, so I
24 think this team will be right in the middle of all those
25 conversations to ensure there is true harmonization. There

1 are changes in how transmission is being planned, not only
2 just in California, you know, in the broader West.

3 So I think I would look to this team to provide
4 some insights on how to harmonize these efforts into a
5 cohesive planning long term, because you have a very unique
6 vantage point looking at the details of this information
7 that a systemwide, you know, capacity expansion might not
8 look at.

9 So I think, you know, the team has been fabulous.
10 Commissioner Gallardo, thank you for your leadership. And
11 I think as we move towards this next 5 to 10 years, I think
12 we are going to go through another inflection point on how
13 we think about the system. You know, I think we have, you
14 know, distributed resources that have come. You have the
15 community-level resources that are coming. You have new
16 transmission opportunities, a lot of different policy
17 ideation. And I look to your team to give us some ideas on
18 how best to harness them as we move forward.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Just a few comments. So thank
21 you again, Gina, great presentation.

22 You know, I just wanted to, first of all, for the
23 benefit of the public, we're talking about renewables here,
24 but what Gina's not, you know, focused on are the other
25 clean resources, which are primarily nuclear, the last

1 remaining nuclear plant in California, Diablo Canyon, and
2 large hydro. And when you add those two renewables, you
3 know, we're almost at 70 percent clean energy in
4 California.

5 And I just want to observe, like I'm really
6 struck in our society by all the things that get a lot of
7 attention that are now common now. You know, everybody
8 knows who Taylor Swift is getting married to, but how many
9 Americans know that 91 percent of the capacity additions on
10 the grid in the U.S. nationwide were clean energy last
11 year, in the first year of the Trump administration? And
12 by the way, if you look at the data, we're on path for the
13 same thing to be true this year in 2026. I mean, this is
14 really remarkable. And this is a function in large part of
15 the market transformation that California has helped drive
16 with our sister states. So I just want to observe, that's
17 an incredible change.

18 And, you know, we are among the most decarbonized
19 major economies in the world. And when you decarbonize the
20 grid, because of all the electrification that's going on,
21 you're now decarbonizing all these other sectors like
22 heating and cooling and water heating and transportation.
23 So it remains, you know, incredibly strategic.

24 So I wanted to highlight a study recently
25 produced by the Corporate Energy Buyers Association, which

1 came out last week, which found that the delays that the
2 Trump administration has imposed on new solar and wind are
3 expected to add an additional \$121.2 billion to rates for
4 customers across the United States, both electricity and
5 natural gas rates, between 2027 and 2033. It is bad for
6 the country to slow these resources from being deployed.
7 And some of the stuff that we've seen, obviously, with
8 offshore wind projects, some of which were 95 percent
9 complete, getting subject to stop recorders, it just adds
10 cost.

11 So I want to just highlight the absurdity of some
12 of these actions and, you know, incredible gratitude to all
13 the stakeholders, permitting agencies, you know, industry
14 and others that have helped build out this capacity. We're
15 building. Again, you guys have heard me say it before, we
16 only have 106 gigs of capacity total in the state of
17 California on the utility side of the meter. We've built
18 32 since Gavin Newsom became governor in 2019. That's 30
19 percent of the entire capacity of the state that's been
20 added in the seven and a half years. And it's awesome
21 what's coming on.

22 I mean, Vice Chair Gunda, we've not really
23 permitted any new fossil; right?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: We had one, I think, as we do
25 our accounting, one of the older reworks was --

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Right.

2 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: -- came in. But no --

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: -- no new.

5 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: So, you know, an incredible
6 amount of new capacity. So anyways, I wish this was as
7 widely known as Taylor Swift and Travis Kelsey.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I have a recommendation. I
9 mean, I think if she made a song --

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, she could.

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: -- you know --

12 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Yeah, exactly.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Taylor Swift is
14 marrying Travis Kelsey?

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: So unless there are other
16 comments? Commissioner McAllister, please.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Appreciate. Appreciate
18 those comments. And I was going to mention just the sort
19 of distinction between the RPS-eligible resources and then
20 the clean, but non-RPS, but you did that well.

21 Over the weekend, I was at my 40th college
22 reunion, actually my, just for the record, my 39th,
23 actually, because they grouped the classes together. But
24 an environmental law colleague, a classmate from Texas,
25 came up and said, "So I really want to talk to you. You

1 know, California, you know, you just don't have enough
2 electricity; right? You know, I'm like, "Actually, you
3 know, you know, looking here for Texas, first of all." And
4 just the misunderstanding, even among professionals who are
5 presumably tasked with looking at these issues in other
6 parts of the world, they just are not tuned in to the
7 revolution that's going on in California and just the
8 leadership that we're showing. And I think, you know, it's
9 driven by private capital, but it, but it is a result of
10 constant, you know, continual policy developments and
11 improvements. And so, you know, obviously I sat her down
12 and, you know, while everybody else was singing karaoke, I
13 was talking about, you know, California's energy path.

14 But, you know, I think it's really on us and
15 on -- I mean, I think, you know, our media does a great job
16 and I think, you know, obviously our governor and our
17 secretary, and we just, we need to double down on that and
18 just really get the message out. And I think as we move
19 towards another national, certainly state election, but a
20 national election in a couple of years, I think it's a
21 great opportunity to highlight California's leadership and
22 just demystify a lot of this stuff, you know? And it's
23 hard to break through it because there's so much
24 misinformation going around on the other side.

25 So anyway, I wanted to just say thanks. I really

1 appreciated the briefing and just getting up to date on all
2 the great work that's happening in RPS. And just, yeah,
3 thanks for making it happen.

4 And so, you know, we also know that it is a
5 significant compliance obligation for all of the reporting
6 entities. So I just want to appreciate them as well,
7 because all the back and forth is what allows us to happen.
8 So thanks to you and the team and all the LSEs.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. With that, I'd
10 welcome a motion from Commissioner Gallardo on Item 6.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 6.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from
13 Commissioner McAllister?

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye.
16 Commissioner Gallardo?

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

23 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Aye.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
25 6 passes unanimously. Thank you, Gina.

1 We'll turn to next Item 7, Commercializing
2 Industrial Decarbonization. And I welcome Ilia to present.

3 MR. KRUPENICH: Good morning. Good morning,
4 Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners, everyone in attendance.
5 My name is Ilia Krupenich. I work in the Energy Research
6 and Development Division. And today I'm presenting one of
7 the projects resulting from commercializing industrial
8 decarbonization solicitation that resulted from the EPIC
9 Program.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The purpose of this solicitation is to fund and
12 demonstrate technology demonstrations and development of
13 pre-commercial technologies to accelerate decarbonization
14 of the industrial sector and increase overall energy
15 efficiency to reach statewide goals set forth by SB 32, SB
16 100, and SB 350. Projects of this solicitation were
17 supposed to fall under one of the two groups, the first one
18 targeting low-carbon industrial heating through direct
19 electrification, and the group two was targeting energy
20 efficiency and decarbonization of concrete manufacturing
21 through alternative processes, electrification in an
22 indirect manner. There are three projects recommended for
23 the award, and only one is for approval today.

24 Next slide, please.

25 The projects will increase electrification and

1 energy efficiency, decrease use of fossil fuels, GHG
2 emissions, and energy costs, and will help meet
3 California's decarbonization goals for the industry.

4 The industrial sector has significant percent for
5 improvements in energy and water use, but is a difficult
6 sector to decarbonize because of the fact that facilities
7 use combined old and new equipment, long lifetime of the
8 equipment, and also they lack actionable operation data for
9 decision making, and lack verified performance data under
10 real-world conditions for the promising emerging
11 technologies. And the recommended research projects will
12 address these areas.

13 Next slide, please.

14 The project with C-Crete Technologies will
15 develop a demonstration to turn industrial wastes lag and
16 abundant natural California pozzolans, minerals that can be
17 easily found in many places of California, into
18 cementitious binders to replace 90 percent of the ordinary
19 Portland cement. This binder, along with C-Crete's eco-
20 friendly chemical binders, will be used to produce concrete
21 to be tested at the Holiday Rock.

22 C-Crete's technology allows for the electrified
23 process of production of cementitious binders without use
24 of 1,500 degree Celsius kilns that usually emit enormous
25 amounts of GHG emissions and local pollutants. When

1 deployed at scale, it will make -- use of abundant natural
2 California minerals and use industrial waste to reduce
3 landfill volume.

4 Next slide, please.

5 Staff recommends approval of this grant agreement
6 and adoption of staff's determination that this project is
7 exempt from CEQA.

8 I am available for any questions that you may
9 have. This concludes my presentation.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. Let's go to public
11 comment.

12 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair.

13 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
14 Item 7. If you'd like to make a comment and you're in the
15 room, please use the QR code posted in the back, or if
16 you're on Zoom, please use the raised-hand feature. Not
17 seeing any commenters in the room, and none on Zoom.

18 Back to you, Chair.

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

20 Let's go to Commissioner discussions, starting
21 with Commissioner McAllister.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Ilia, thanks so much
23 for this, and I'm super stoked about this project, I have
24 to say. Just concrete production, cement production is 8
25 to 10 percent global emissions. And, you know, really

1 is -- a fundamental driver of our transition is
2 technologies that get around that, and this one really
3 does. There's several that are emerging, but this one
4 really, like, I mean, 90 percent reduction potentially, and
5 completely different process, and less energy requirement,
6 and the chemistry not driving emissions. And so really
7 should be a complete game changer, and we're supporting it
8 here in California.

9 And I can't, as I've told staff many times, I
10 can't wait to visit. Really got to go see this in action,
11 but just want to support the project. Thanks, Ilia.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair, please.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, thanks, Ilia, for the
14 presentation. Again, to the entire team. I thank Jonah,
15 Angie, and Cody, and the entire leadership team for having
16 a cohesive kind of the industrial decarbonization
17 investments. You know, I see the plan, you know, the
18 cohesive plan that has been helping both with the climate
19 side, but also the economic and development and local
20 manufacturing.

21 I wanted to just kind of maybe -- you know,
22 Commissioner McAllister, it's more of, you know, your view
23 on as we move towards these investments to scale, how are
24 you seeing the biggest opportunity maybe in terms of the
25 industrial decarbonization?

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I mean, I would also
2 defer to Angie, and Ilia, and the team, but, you know, I've
3 been looking forward to industrial for a big chunk of my
4 career. And, you know, California's economy is a little
5 bit different than a lot of places, but certainly steel,
6 fertilizer, there's some big ones. We don't have primary
7 steel production in California. You we do have some
8 secondary processing. And chemistry, the chemical industry
9 generates quite a bit of emissions, things like glass,
10 glass tempering, lend themselves to electrification, so
11 that's a strategy, but not all industrial.

12 You know, a lot of industrial needs high heat,
13 and so replacing combustion of currently a fossil,
14 typically gas, is a challenge. And so, you know, in the
15 chemical -- in the cement industry, for example, you know,
16 about half the emissions are due to burning natural gas to
17 drive the clinker process, and then the other -- and so --
18 and then the half are the actual clinker process, which
19 emits a ton of CO2 just as part of the chemistry of the
20 transformation that takes place when you -- and then you
21 have to, you know, grind it, and that's the cement that you
22 get.

23 So alternative chemistries that don't require as
24 much heat and that avoid that chemical pathway, the
25 chemistry that, you know, produces a ton of CO2, that's --

1 that really goes to kind of the jugular of the problem.
2 And, you know, in cement generally, it's some of the
3 dirtiest combustion because they burn whatever they can
4 find, including, like, old tires and stuff like that to
5 generate the heat, and there's very -- there's not a ton
6 you can do to get around the clinker. If you're using the
7 traditional process, not a ton you can get around in terms
8 of the chemistry.

9 Now, there are some technologies that use, like,
10 pulverized glass and things like that to displace and
11 improve the qualities of the cement, but those are kind of
12 at the margins a little bit, you know, 10, 20 percent. So
13 in California, I think this is really -- so we have -- how
14 many cement plants do we have? We have like five, I think.

15 MR. KRUPENICH: There are seven operating.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, yeah, seven
17 operating, okay. So and, like what, how many companies?

18 MR. KRUPENICH: It's really three companies.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Three companies, right,
20 so it's big in California, but it's big everywhere, you
21 know? And so this really could be a transformational -- I
22 mean, can you imagine just lopping off almost 10 percent of
23 the emissions of the globally'; right? And, I mean, places
24 like China, where they're building so much, I mean, the
25 process shifts, you know, we've got to kind of jump the

1 tracks over to a different technology.

2 So anyway, I'm not sure if I've answered your
3 question.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: But the industrial
6 sector in California, I think, is around 25, 20, 25 percent
7 of all the emissions in the state. And so, always, I just
8 really appreciate staff's creative thinking, you know, and
9 Virginia Liu, you know, who now is retired, it just, it
10 goes back so long, and Laurie ten Hope, I mean, the --
11 Martha Brook, you know, who was my advisor before she
12 retired, there's just a really, I think, August history of
13 CEC looking for those opportunities in the industrial
14 sector, which are a little tricky, right, because, you
15 know, you get more money for your -- you get a lot of bang
16 for your buck if you can focus on one facility and really
17 do transformational work at that facility, because there
18 are lots of emissions.

19 But each facility is kind of different, so it
20 really needs to be more of a custom approach than we sort
21 of typically do with our program approaches, where, you
22 know, people apply to us, and sort of like it's kind of a
23 one-size-fits-all. But I think staff is doing, you know,
24 and most recently, staff is really doing a great job of
25 assessing the opportunities and grafting program

1 opportunities to engage with those industries. So, for
2 example, the agricultural sector, right, when we've done,
3 you know, the FPIP, so that's, you know, that's one example
4 of kind of a sector-specific approach.

5 So I think we're showing a lot of creativity, and
6 staff is just driving a really positive evolution. But,
7 yeah.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks for the
10 question.

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I don't know if you
13 have anything to add, Angie or Ilia?

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I had just one --

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: -- one more question for you.
17 You know, I share your enthusiasm, Commissioner, for this
18 very strategic investment. I think about, you know, you
19 guys have heard my analogy, and a lot of what we're trying
20 to do with, you know, supporting these clean and low-carbon
21 industries is like raising a family, and like, solar is out
22 of high school, out of college, off to the world. You
23 know, wind, EVs are like in high school. Heat pumps are
24 maybe sixth grade. This has been like middle school, and
25 but a very, very promising future for this stuff.

1 And I just wanted to confirm my understanding. I
2 mean, in addition to reducing the carbon content, it's also
3 diverting a waste stream; right?

4 MR. KRUPENICH: Yes, that's right.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: So, I mean, it really is a
6 win-win. So thank you for all the hard work on this.
7 Delighted to support this.

8 Was there anything else you wanted to add in
9 response to what you heard?

10 MR. KRUPENICH: No.

11 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Okay, with that, I would
12 welcome a motion from Commissioner McAllister on Item 7.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Move Item 7.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from the
15 Vice Chair?

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

17 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: All in favor, say aye.
18 Commissioner McAllister?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
2 7 passes unanimously. Thank you, Ilia, for that
3 presentation.

4 We will turn now to Item 8, Advanced Grid
5 Technology Acceleration Projects. Sebastian? Is Sebastian
6 joining us virtually?

7 MR. RUIZ: Yes, I'll be joining you virtually.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Great. Over to you.

9 MR. RUIZ: Good morning. Buenos dias, Chair,
10 Vice Chair, and Commissioners. My name is Sebastian Rubio
11 Ruiz, and I'm an Energy Commission Specialist in the Energy
12 Research and Development Division. Today, I'm presenting
13 four proposed awards from a recent funding opportunity
14 issued through the CEC's Electric Program Investment
15 Charge, or EPIC Program. These are the first of a few
16 awards to be presented at a business meeting, and we
17 anticipate two additional awards will be proposed at
18 upcoming and subsequent meetings.

19 Next slide, please.

20 Achieving California's climate and clean energy
21 goals hinges on rapidly deploying large amounts of new
22 renewable generation and storage, while at the same time
23 electrifying activities and sectors like transportation
24 that today rely predominantly on fossil fuels.

25 This figure here shows the results from past CEC

1 analyses that estimate we will need to connect
2 approximately 150 gigawatts of new storage and renewable
3 generation by 2045, as shown on the right side. At the
4 same time, the state will need to install more than 1.1
5 million new public electric vehicle chargers by 2030, and
6 around 4.5 million more heat pump water heaters by 2030, as
7 depicted on the left side. Effectively, all of these
8 resources need to connect to the electric grid, which is
9 shown in the middle, which will deliver renewable
10 electricity from where it is generated to where it is used.

11 Rapidly increasing the grid's capacity to manage
12 while at the same time maintaining reliability,
13 affordability, and resilience is a critical challenge.
14 Innovative grid technologies, like better conductors,
15 sensors, and controls can help balance these multiple
16 competing objectives and play a critical role in meeting
17 the state's goals.

18 The purpose of our solicitation was to support
19 development, validate the performance and benefits, and
20 inform future deployments of advanced grid technologies in
21 utility operations.

22 Next slide, please.

23 The projects proposed for funding through the
24 solicitation could provide a range of benefits to
25 Californians. Advanced grid technologies can accelerate

1 deployment and grid connection of new clean energy
2 resources and flexible loads, improve the grid operator's
3 awareness and control, and increase the utilization of grid
4 infrastructure to get the most of new and existing
5 facilities. In this way, these technologies can promote
6 electric affordability while maintaining the state's
7 climate leadership.

8 Next slide, please.

9 The first proposed agreement is titled Microgrids
10 for Advanced Grid Interaction and Control with New Sun
11 Road. The project will demonstrate novel control
12 technologies that can be integrated with utility
13 distributed energy resource management systems, enabling
14 the microgrids to provide services to the local grid beyond
15 bulk system demand response.

16 The advanced microgrid controls will be
17 demonstrated at two pre-existing community microgrids with
18 very distinct characteristics and challenges.

19 Specifically, the technology will be shown at the Tomales
20 Community Microgrid, which is a rural microgrid exposed to
21 persistent community -- apologies, exposed to persistent
22 high wildfire threats, as well as the East Los Angeles
23 Community Microgrid, which is located in a dense urban
24 setting. The project will help validate the microgrid's
25 ability to simultaneously provide distribution, grid, and

1 community benefits, support commercialization of an
2 advanced microgrid controller, and inform a scalable model
3 for grid interactive microgrid deployment across priority
4 communities in California.

5 Next slide, please.

6 The second proposed agreement is with GridWrap,
7 Inc. This is a California-based startup that will develop
8 and test its composite wire wrap material. This is applied
9 to existing transmission and distribution conductors, as
10 shown in the picture on the slide. The innovation here can
11 allow for electric lines to carry more power while reducing
12 thermal sag, which is illustrated in the bottom comparing
13 the green dashed lines and the gray lines. This can
14 provide a rapid increase in grid capacity at a lower cost
15 than reconductoring or construction of new lines. The
16 project will include pilot testing at Idaho National
17 Laboratory and at the Brawley campus at San Diego State
18 University, which is being --

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Sorry, Sebastian. What is the
20 improvement in efficiency with that wrap?

21 MR. RUIZ: I don't have the exact percentage. I
22 can defer later to Ben, who probably has additional
23 information on what the capacity improvement would be.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. It would be very
25 interesting to know what kind of gain we get. Thanks.

1 MR. RUIZ: Yeah. And so this will be
2 demonstrated at the Brawley Campus at SDSU. This is
3 designed to evaluate the performance of the technology and
4 representative conditions enabled there. Additionally, the
5 project will support some workforce development and
6 community engagement activities, prioritizing disadvantaged
7 and low-income communities.

8 Next slide, please.

9 The third proposed agreement is with Lawrence
10 Berkeley National Laboratory, which will develop and
11 demonstrate advanced analytics running on second-generation
12 smart meters to estimate the size and capacity of local
13 distribution networks. This can improve visibility and
14 awareness for grid operators and allow them to measure and
15 map the characteristics of service and distribution lines
16 without needing to send out crews for manual inspections.
17 The approach will be field-tested in residences around San
18 Francisco and the greater Bay Area and ultimately provides
19 a pathway to lowering costs and accelerating timelines for
20 connecting new clean resources and beneficial loads, like
21 residential EV chargers.

22 Next slide, please.

23 The fourth and final proposed agreement is with
24 UC San Diego and is titled Accelerating Grid-Interactive,
25 Flexible Data Centers in California. The project will

1 demonstrate a solid-state transformer from Alderbuck Energy
2 to a power a data center at the San Diego Supercomputer
3 Center. The solid-state transformer is both more efficient
4 than conventional transformers and will be able to receive
5 and respond to signals, allowing for flexible optimization
6 of data center compute loads. This project will also
7 develop a flexible data center forecasting tool that will
8 inform planning for future data center load growth.

9 Next slide, please.

10 Staff is recommending approval of these four
11 grant agreements and adoption of staff's determination that
12 these projects are exempt from CEQA. Staff and I are
13 available for any questions that you may have, and the
14 proposed representatives of the four proposed agreements
15 are also on the line to provide comments or answer any
16 questions.

17 Thank you, and this concludes my presentation.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much. Let's go
19 to public comment on Item 8.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair.

21 The Commissioner now welcomes public comment on
22 Item 8. To notify us that you'd like to make a comment,
23 please use the raised-hand feature or visit the Public
24 Advisors table. And if you're on Zoom, please use the
25 raised-hand feature.

1 Quickly scanning the room. I believe we have
2 Sarah Taheri. Please approach the podium. Comments will
3 be two minutes or less. Please state and spell your name
4 for the record.

5 MS. TAHERI: I'll say good day because it's not
6 quite afternoon yet, so -- and happy birthday, Chair
7 Hochschild. My name is Sarah Taheri. That's S-A-R-A-H
8 T-A-H-E-R-I, with San Diego Gas and Electric, standing in
9 support today of item 8d specifically, the proposed grant
10 to UC San Diego for its Accelerating Grid Interactive
11 Flexible Data Centers in California project.

12 SDG&E is proud to partner with UCSD on this first
13 of its kind demonstration project. As utilities in
14 California are seeing rapid growth in large data centers
15 and variable, excuse me, variable load like data centers
16 and EV charging, projects like this one are critical to
17 maintaining reliable, affordable, and clean service. This
18 technology has the potential to significantly modernize how
19 we integrate large loads into the electric grid, enabling
20 faster, more flexible interconnections while reducing
21 conversion losses, cutting equipment footprint, and
22 shortening installation timelines. These efficiencies can
23 help defer infrastructure upgrades and ultimately benefit
24 customers through lower system costs.

25 In addition, the project gives us new tools to

1 improve load visibility, enhance grid reliability, and
2 optimize our system operations. This work can help inform
3 future planning and interconnection standards while
4 supporting workforce development and broader adoption of
5 innovative grid technologies across the state.

6 In closing, this project takes meaningful steps
7 toward advancing grid modernization, supporting economic
8 growth, and delivering tangible benefits to customers
9 through improved reliability, efficiency, and scalability.
10 We appreciate the leadership of the Commission and UC San
11 Diego for your work on this. We're grateful to be a
12 collaborator and encourage your yes votes today.

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those comments,
15 Sarah.

16 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

17 Seeing none further in the room, I'm going to
18 transition to Zoom. Brian Balderston, I'm going to unmute
19 your line. Please unmute on your end. And we welcome your
20 public comment.

21 MR. BALDERSTON: Hello. I'm Brian Balderston,
22 the Director of Infrastructure and Data Centers at the San
23 Diego Supercomputer Center, part of the Halicioğlu School
24 of Data Science and Computing at UC San Diego. And I would
25 like to thank the Energy Commission for its support of the

1 Grid Interactive Flexible Data Centers Project. We're
2 honored to partner with UC San Diego, SDG&E, Emerald AI,
3 Alderbuck Energy, and others on this important initiative.

4 This project represents a demonstration of a
5 next-generation grid interactive AI data center using
6 solid-state transformer technology and an 800-volt DC power
7 architecture. By combining the advanced power electronics
8 with intelligent AI workload orchestration, we are
9 demonstrating how future data centers can become more
10 flexible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of
11 California's electric grid.

12 The adoption of 800-volt DC will position the
13 supercomputer center to support the next generation of AI
14 and HPC systems currently being developed by industry. And
15 by reducing the number of power conversion stages between
16 the grid and the compute hardware, this architecture has
17 the potential to improve overall power delivery efficiency
18 while reducing physical copper infrastructure required
19 throughout the facility.

20 The potential benefits for California are
21 significant. Our goal is to improve energy efficiency,
22 reduce infrastructure costs and physical footprint, and
23 enable data centers to shift or adjust power demand in
24 response to grid conditions.

25 We are grateful for the Commission's leadership

1 and investment in innovative technologies that will help
2 shape a more resilient and sustainable energy future for
3 California.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. YOUNG: No further public comment. Back to
6 you.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Before we discuss and
8 vote, I have a disclosure to read.

9 Prior to voting on items 8a, a proposed
10 resolution approving agreement EPC-25-051 with New Sun
11 Road, PPC, and 8c, a proposed resolution approving
12 agreement EPC-25-055 with the Lawrence Berkeley National
13 Laboratory, I note for the record pursuant to Government
14 Code section 1091.5(a)(9) that I have previously received
15 compensation from UC Berkeley's School of Public Policy for
16 teaching a course, the graduate student -- graduate course
17 at the Goldman School of Public Policy, which I will be
18 doing again this fall, focused on climate solutions. This
19 is considered a non-interest under conflicts of interest
20 laws because this grant agreement does not involve the
21 department where I taught, and I have no direct or indirect
22 financial interest in this agreement.

23 With this disclosure, I'm able to vote on this
24 item.

25 Any Commissioner comments before we vote on Item

1 8?

2 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Yeah, Commissioner Skinner.

3 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Thank you, Chair. I was
4 very pleased to see this item today and these particular
5 projects that we're funding. California, we talk a lot
6 about our housing crisis and that part of why we -- there's
7 many, many reasons why, but part of why our housing, we're
8 still behind in construction is because there's been little
9 to no innovations in housing construction in the past 100
10 years. We do it pretty much the same, probably even longer
11 than that.

12 Well, similarly, if we think about our grid
13 technologies, we have not made that many improvements to
14 them. We think about our codes for buildings and the
15 improvements that we've made from the efficiency of
16 buildings or appliances, and that's significant. But when
17 it comes to the efficiency of how our electricity is
18 transmitted across the wires, there's been little done.
19 And yet, the research shows that there's a great deal that
20 we could achieve.

21 And as we are expanding our electrification and
22 knowing that we -- that this is going to require grid
23 upgrades, by improving the efficiency of the system and
24 being able to deliver more electricity through the existing
25 infrastructure that we have, will, I hope, and I would

1 expect, potentially improve our affordability issues
2 because we would have to put less money into expansion of
3 these structures and more into improving the delivery of
4 the system.

5 So I was really happy to see this. I hope that
6 they are as fruitful as their descriptions, and I hope that
7 we can do more of it.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

9 Commissioner McAllister?

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, thanks, Chair.

11 So I've been paying attention to this and really
12 appreciate all of the work to bring this to us today. This
13 is a really interesting group. It really hits all the
14 themes. Thanks, Sebastian, for the presentation.

15 And, you know, I really appreciate, Brian, your
16 being here, and Sarah as well, or chiming in, Brian. The
17 leadership at UCSD is longstanding and just really
18 significant and meaningful for the state, and I just really
19 applaud your leadership, and a great group of partners on
20 that project, real leadership in the data center space.

21 And, you know, we, I think, you know, we've had a
22 lot of conversations in the forecasting context of data
23 centers and their, you know, impact, upcoming impact on the
24 grid, but it's not quite with us yet. And as things move
25 toward real-time inference, and as we really need to sort

1 of chisel out spots in the distribution and the sub-
2 transmission grid, largely near the population centers of
3 the state where the proximity, the latency needs are high,
4 you know, we need low latency to do that compute as close
5 to the need as possible. I think this technology, this
6 project will really inform that, the siting process, and
7 hopefully really accelerate and streamline the
8 identification of sites and the interconnection and solving
9 all the issues that will inevitably come up. So I really
10 appreciate the potential for optimization there.

11 And, you know, reliability, flexibility, these
12 are really -- this is the moment where we're doing a lot of
13 innovation on flexibility, so I really appreciate all four
14 of these projects. and mostly they're power electronics
15 and controls, you know, sort of measurement controls,
16 electronics. You know, the electronics are just so
17 fundamental to the modern electric grid, and both in
18 buildings and end uses, but in controls and visibility and
19 management of the grid.

20 But I really appreciate the GridWrap, as well,
21 which is a physical solution to improving the -- to
22 optimize our connectors. So that's really cool and also
23 really important.

24 So I really appreciate the diversity of this
25 group and support all four of these projects, and I think

1 they complement one another extremely well, so thanks.

2 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Do you appreciate it enough to
3 move the item?

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yes. I move Item 8.

5 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Moved by Commissioner
6 McAllister. Is there a second from the Vice Chair?

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye.
9 Commissioner McAllister?

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Commissioner Skinner?

16 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
18 8 passes unanimously.

19 We'll turn now to Item 9, DC Energy Services LLC
20 dba Imperion, and I welcome Mohamad Younes to present, I
21 think, virtually; right? Is Mohamad on?

22 Mohamad, I've promoted you to a panelist. Can
23 you accept that?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Mohamad is on the general
25 line.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh, he's on the general line.
2 Can we upgrade him to panelist?

3 MR. YOUNES: Can you guys hear me?

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Mohamad, can you hear us?

5 MR. YOUNES: Yes. Can you guys hear me now?

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh, yeah, we can hear you now.
7 Go ahead.

8 MR. YOUNES: Okay. I'm not sure why you guys
9 cannot see me either, but that's okay. Okay. Good
10 afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioners. My name is
11 Mohamad El Hajj Younes, and I work in the Energy Research
12 and Development Division. Today, I'll be presenting one
13 recommended award under this third solicitation round of
14 the Industrial Decarbonization and Improvement of Grid
15 Operations, or INDIGO, Program.

16 Next slide, please.

17 So this solicitation develops and deploys novel
18 decarbonization technologies and grid support strategies at
19 California industrial facilities to directly address key
20 barriers like high capital costs and high operating costs,
21 as well as long equipment lifecycle with limited
22 intervention points and the need to de-risk emerging
23 technologies.

24 Two projects are recommended for award under this
25 third solicitation round. The total funding represents

1 approximately \$10 million in CEC funds with \$14.5 million
2 in match funds. Today, I'll be presenting one of them for
3 your approval.

4 Next slide, please.

5 So the INDIGO Program was established in AB -- I
6 mean, established by AB 209 in 2022, and it is funded by
7 the California Climate Investments Program administered by
8 the California Air Resources Board. INDIGO addresses a
9 critical need. The industrial sector accounts for roughly
10 20 percent of California's greenhouse gas emissions, so
11 making its transformation is essential to achieving carbon
12 neutrality by 2045.

13 So all projects must meet three guiding
14 principles, one being improving public health and
15 environmental outcomes with a focus on priority
16 populations, two, enhancing the electrical grid,
17 particularly during peak periods, and three, demonstrating
18 the effectiveness of advanced electrification grid support
19 and decarbonization technologies.

20 Next slide, please.

21 Today, I'm seeking approval for a project with
22 Imperion at the Danone facility in City of Industry, which
23 will replace gas-fired boilers with ammonia heat pumps,
24 waste heat recovery, and thermal energy storage to
25 electrify process heat. Heat will be captured from

1 existing pasteurization and refrigeration processes, which
2 reduces fossil gas consumption by around 939,000 therms
3 annually, cutting roughly 5,000 metric tons of greenhouse
4 gas emissions per year. That's about 20 percent of the
5 facility's total emissions, so it's a great addition.
6 Additionally, the system is designed to shift electricity
7 load, avoiding 179 kilowatts of new peak demand.

8 Located in a disadvantaged community, ranked in
9 the 99th percentile for pollution burden, the project will
10 reduce approximately 260,000 pounds of air pollutants
11 annually, delivering significant public health co-benefits
12 to the surrounding communities.

13 Next slide, please.

14 So beyond site impacts, this project demonstrates
15 a replicable model for industrial heat electrification
16 across California's food, beverage, and manufacturing
17 sectors by proving technical performance, operational
18 reliability, and grid compatibility under real-world
19 conditions.

20 To put the market potential in perspective, if
21 similar systems are deployed at 200 comparable California
22 dairy and beverage facilities, approximately 187 million
23 therms could be displaced per year, and approximately 1
24 million metric tons of CO2 can be avoided annually
25 statewide. According to the EPA, that is equivalent to

1 removing 233,000 gas-powered passenger vehicles off the
2 road for a year. So this illustrates the significant role
3 of industrial heat pumps and thermal energy storage and how
4 they could play in a cost-effective transition for
5 California's industrial sector to move away from fossil
6 fuel combustion.

7 Next slide, please.

8 The staff recommends approval of the grant
9 agreement and adoption of staff's determination that the
10 project is exempt from CEQA, and I'm happy to take any
11 questions today. Thank you.

12 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Thank you. Let's go to public
13 comment on Item 9.

14 MR. YOUNG: The Commission now welcomes public
15 comment on Item 9. If you want to make a public comment
16 and you're in the room, please use the QR code posted in
17 the back. If you're on Zoom, please use the raised-hand
18 feature.

19 There appears to be no comments on Item 9. Back
20 to you, Chair.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, let's go to
22 Commissioner discussion, starting with -- who would like to
23 start us out? Vice Chair, please.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I just wanted to say, Mahamad,
25 thank you for the presentation. I think it's another great

1 project in the Manufacturing & Carbon Management Team
2 within R&D. I think it's really helpful to see these and
3 how they tie together. I appreciate you laying out the
4 market potential and the opportunity for market
5 transformation, so looking forward to supporting it.
6 Thanks.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Unless there's any
8 other comments -- Commissioner McAllister?

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Just a lot of my
10 comments from the previous item, but this one is an
11 integrated one. It's obviously agriculture and, you know,
12 INDIGO is super important. So I really appreciate, again,
13 all the staff to bring this to us.

14 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Would you like to move to Item
15 9?

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yep. Move to Item 9.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Moved by Commissioner
18 McAllister.

19 Vice Chair --

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: -- would you move on to
22 second? All in favor, say aye.

23 Commissioner McAllister?

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo?

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

5 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Aye.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
7 9 passes unanimously.

8 We'll turn next to Item 10, Cal Poly Humboldt
9 Sponsored Programs Foundation. Welcome to Kevin Mallon.

10 MR. MALLON: Thank you. Greetings, Chair and
11 Commissioners. I am Kevin Mallon, an Energy Storage
12 Research Specialist with the Energy Research and
13 Development Division. Today, I will be presenting to you a
14 \$15.7 million agreement with Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored
15 Programs Foundation, specifically with the Schatz Energy
16 Research Center, to deploy a long-duration energy storage
17 system with the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

18 Next slide, please.

19 So as I said, this grant would deploy a long-
20 duration energy storage system in partnership with the
21 Hoopa Valley Tribe. The microgrid would be co-located with
22 solar photovoltaics for renewable generation and with
23 lithium batteries for short storage. The installation
24 would use a vanadium redox flow battery. The recipient is
25 currently in negotiations with a particular vendor and

1 they've asked us not to disclose who that vendor is until
2 those negotiations are complete.

3 The project team has experience developing front-
4 of-the-meter microgrid projects. For instance, Schatz
5 Energy Research Center recently completed a CEC grant to
6 deploy a solar plus storage microgrid at the California
7 Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport.

8 One significant aspect of this project is that it
9 will contribute as a matched share towards the U.S.
10 Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Resiliency and
11 Sovereignty Project, or TERS. This \$88 million grant is
12 for a regional nested microgrid led by an inter-tribal
13 consortium, including the Hoopa Valley Tribe and other
14 project partners such as Redwood Coast Energy Authority and
15 the Schatz Energy Research Center.

16 Next slide, please.

17 So this project builds upon past tribal
18 microgrids the Long-Duration Energy Storage Program has
19 funded. However, it would be the first front-of-the-meter
20 system in our program for tribal energy resiliency. So
21 this is a very important use case to demonstrate for long-
22 duration energy storage.

23 Specifically, this microgrid would have two
24 operating modes. When the grid is up, the system would
25 provide services to the grid through an offtake agreement

1 with Redwood Coast Energy Authority. And during outages,
2 the microgrid could provide backup power to the entire
3 Hoopa 1101 Circuit, the Hoopa Valley Core being priority
4 resilience zone.

5 Next slide, please.

6 To highlights some statewide benefits, if this
7 agreement is funded, it will demonstrate a commercial use
8 case for grid-scale long-duration energy storage systems
9 that will enable these technologies to scale up towards
10 full commercialization and prove that they can compete in
11 the energy storage marketplace. As I mentioned, this grant
12 is planning to use a vanadium redox flow battery, the
13 diagram of that technology shown to the right. This
14 project would be one the largest deployments of vanadium
15 batteries in California and the next step in the scale-up
16 of that technology. This growth is critical to meeting
17 California's clean energy goals and reaching net zero.

18 Additionally, this project's participation in
19 energy markets will benefit regional resiliency and
20 reliability, providing power to the grid during periods of
21 peak demand. By load-shifting renewable generation and by
22 replacing diesel generation during outages, it will aid in
23 California's clean energy transition.

24 Next slide, please.

25 So to put some numbers behind how significant the

1 repeatability of this project is, if a project of this
2 scale were to be replicated on all of the tribal lands in
3 California, that would represent about half a gigawatt of
4 long-duration energy storage. The 2021 SB 100 Report
5 estimates that four gigawatts of long-duration energy
6 storage will be needed to meet the goal of 100 percent
7 clean energy by 2045. So this project template could
8 fulfill a substantial part of that goal.

9 Additionally, this type of project is not limited
10 to tribes and could be repeated in other sectors needing
11 critical backup power, such as military bases.

12 Next slide, please.

13 Staff proposes adopting the resolution which,
14 one, would adopt the staff's determination or
15 recommendation that this project is exempt from CEQA and,
16 two, would approve Agreement LDS-25-001 with Cal Poly
17 Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation.

18 This concludes my presentation. I'm happy to
19 take any questions. Additionally, Linnea Jackson, General
20 Manager of the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District, is
21 online to provide comment and support of the project.
22 Additionally, David Franklin of Schatz Energy Research
23 Center is here in person to support the project with
24 comment.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. Let's go to public
2 comment.

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair.

4 I'd first like to recognize Linnea Jackson.
5 She's joining us online. We're going to hear from her
6 first and without a timer.

7 Linnea, go ahead whenever you're ready.

8 MS. JACKSON: Good afternoon, everybody. Can you
9 hear me okay?

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes. Hi, Linnea.

11 MS. JACKSON: Hi, everybody. Thank you. So
12 again, just to introduce myself, my name is Linnea Jackson.
13 I'm a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. I serve as the
14 General Manager for my tribe's utilities.

15 I wanted to express gratitude for the partnership
16 with CEC, and I wanted to highlight the partnership with
17 Mike Gravely, Kevin Mallon, and Sierra Graves. They've
18 been instrumental in maneuvering through this project to
19 get to the business meeting, so I wanted to thank enough of
20 the staff. I appreciate the CEC's commitment for thorough
21 consideration of this project. That includes working with
22 CEC experts and under the Aspen contract to look at the
23 research and development technologies and evaluate
24 potential environmental impacts.

25 The tribe feels confident and excited about

1 deploying new battery technology. We're excited to help
2 meet the state's climate goals. The tribe is happy to
3 stand with CEC on the commitment to not only clean energy
4 projects, but the unwavering commitment to solar generation
5 paired with the innovative battery solutions that this
6 project will bring about.

7 The specific benefits to the Hoopa Valley Tribe,
8 it will uplift the Hoopa 1101 Circuit, which has grid
9 reliability issues. We deal with constant outages. And
10 also, it will support critical functions that the tribe
11 supports, specifically Hoopa Public Utilities. We manage
12 critical water infrastructure communications, which are so
13 essential for energy resiliency, so I also wanted to lift
14 those critical functions up.

15 I wanted to thank the expertise and partnership
16 with the Energy Research Center and Cal Poly Humboldt-
17 sponsored programs. Without their expertise, guidance, and
18 dedication to this project, it would not be possible as
19 well.

20 And I wanted to step back and say, I look forward
21 to the next several years of facilitating this project on
22 a, you know, highly technical, professional manner. We
23 look forward to being partners with CEC and the state.

24 And with that, I will say, you know, happy
25 birthday, Chair Hochschild. I appreciate your leadership.

1 Thank you to the Chair, the Commissioners for your
2 consideration of this award. We see this as a commitment
3 to uplifting and to fund tribally-led projects as part of
4 your commitment to the Tribal Energy Sovereignty Resolution
5 that was approved several years ago. So I wanted to thank
6 CEC specifically for honoring those goals and commitments.

7 With that, I wanted to thank again the CEC for
8 this award, the work of the staff members, and we look
9 forward to a really bright future. Thanks again.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

11 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Linnea.

12 Next, I'd like to welcome Dave Franklin. I
13 believe he's with us today. Please approach the podium.
14 State and spell your name for the record and we welcome
15 your comments.

16 MR. FRANKLIN: Thanks so much. My name is David
17 Franklin, F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N. It's hard following Linnea
18 Jackson. She's so good at this.

19 Good afternoon, Commissioners and staff. As I
20 said, my name is David Franklin. I'm a project manager at
21 the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt. On
22 behalf of the Schatz Center, I'd like to express our deep
23 gratitude for the Commission for broadly supporting
24 innovations that advance rural and tribal energy sovereigns
25 and resilience, and specifically for recognizing the

1 importance of improving energy reliability on the Hoopa
2 1101 Circuit, which, as you may recall, currently
3 experiences one of the highest outage rates in the state.

4 We at the Schatz Center are honored to provide
5 technical support to the Hoopa Valley Tribe as they work to
6 develop resilient clean energy systems to better serve
7 their community. Before you today is a proposal to bring
8 long-duration energy storage to the Hoopa Valley. Mike
9 Gravely, Kevin Mallon, Sierra Graves, and many other
10 members of the CEC team, as well as Aspen Environmental,
11 have been tireless in their support of the Hoopa Valley
12 Tribe, as well as the Schatz Energy Research Center,
13 through the environmental assessment phase of this project.
14 In preparation for this next phase, we greatly appreciate
15 all their efforts to date and are eager to begin
16 development.

17 This LDES and solar project, while a standalone
18 project, as mentioned, will be a cornerstone of TERAS, the
19 Tribal Energy Resiliency and Sovereignty Project. We look
20 forward to sharing the lessons learned and technical
21 advances made by this LDES system deployment and from its
22 integration within the broader TERAS microgrid project.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you
24 in support of this project and for your consideration of
25 this award.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

2 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair. That concludes
3 public comment on this item.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. I'm going to call an
5 audible, if it's okay. We do have Jana Ganion here.

6 And Jana, if you wouldn't mind just coming up?

7 Jana has been instrumental, obviously, in
8 birthing the Tribal Energy Sovereignty Program with her
9 work when she was a Blue Lake Rancheria. She's now serving
10 as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Skinner. I just wondered
11 if you had any comments you wanted to make?

12 MS. GANION: Yeah. I think it's important,
13 Chair, to follow up on your comments about oftentimes in
14 tribal nations that are very rural, very hard to reach
15 logistically. There is a lot of project development issues
16 that tribes face when they go to build energy systems that
17 provide the resilience they need.

18 The Hoopa Valley Tribe is a leader nationally in
19 this space. And I think that the facts on the ground are
20 that solar and battery storage are, of any of the energy
21 resources that tribes might consider developing, those are
22 often the ones that are the most feasible, the most cost
23 effective, the most resilient, the most reliable. This
24 project sounds fantastic and would just encourage the
25 Commission to support it.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Thank you.

2 MS. GANION: Thanks.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I'll just observe from our
4 visits there, I'm really grateful Linnea was able to be on
5 the call and provide public comments today, but, you know,
6 going to see the Hoopa Tribe and the things that they have
7 to contend with, you know, two things are true. The tribes
8 on the North Coast are losing power more than just about
9 anywhere else in the state over the course of the year.
10 And then it's also where it takes the longest to get the
11 power back on; right? And so this is why I just think it's
12 particularly indicated to do these kinds of investments in
13 this part of the state to our earlier discussion earlier in
14 the meeting, so really grateful for everyone's work on
15 this.

16 And the Schatz Center, I want to especially
17 acknowledge all the talent and support and the incredible
18 collaboration I have witnessed, all of us, I think, have
19 witnessed with the North Coast tribes. And I especially
20 want to thank my longtime advisor on these issues, Mike
21 Gravely, who's been -- you know, without him, the Long
22 Duration Storage Program would not be where it is. Really
23 grateful, Mike, to you for helping stitch all these things
24 together. And I'm delighted to support this project.

25 Other comments? Vice Chair, please.

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, Chair, thank you.

2 Kevin, I want to start with you. Thanks for the
3 presentation. I think I just want to uplift a few names,
4 Mike, you know, and people talk about all the work you do,
5 continue to show leadership and commitment, and both to the
6 LDS Team, but also the broader R&D leadership on these
7 issues. I want to make sure I recognize the Tribal Affairs
8 Teams, Sierra Graves and her team are critical to these
9 kinds of relationships and work.

10 I want to recognize that when we talk about this
11 distribution grid, specifically one of the most impacted
12 distribution circuits in California, and I think, you know,
13 in terms of resiliency and reliability, you know, one of
14 the lowest. And, you know, Jana, thank you for your
15 comments. And, you know, we talked five, six, seven years
16 now continually about the need for resiliency in North
17 Coast areas and, you know, how best to think about
18 segmentation and so on. So a lot of the work that you
19 championed through your work in the North Coast, really
20 appreciate that.

21 Partnership with Hooper Tribe, Schatz Center,
22 thank you for being here. You know, I look forward to
23 supporting this.

24 I want to also call out, Chair, you and your
25 leadership, you know, on these issues. Again, I've been

1 watching the winding road here. You know, we feel good one
2 day, you know, things don't go well on the funding, and
3 then, you know, there's an opportunity to bring it up.

4 I also wanted to just recognize, and I see Jen
5 here, we were up visiting the North Coast in Yurok Tribe
6 when we heard good news about potential funding
7 opportunities from the feds, and then, you know, again,
8 those oscillations. You know, so just, you know, Jen, your
9 work, you know, Christina, who's not here with us anymore,
10 a lot of people's good work is kind of culminating into a,
11 you know, good vision here. And again, you know,
12 Commissioner Gallardo, you have been taking this as an
13 important part of relationship building and ensuring that
14 we're all working with the same goals.

15 I think no matter who you are, where you live in
16 California, you should be able to count on having basic
17 internet services and basic electric grid services as a
18 part of upward mobility and opportunity. And I think
19 anything we can do to support that kind of equitable
20 distribution of resources and opportunity is amazing.

21 So thank you. I look forward to supporting it.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, Commissioner Gallardo,
23 please.

24 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much for the
25 presentation. I'm really excited about this. I wanted to

1 highlight the influence of Director Sierra Graves, who's
2 our Tribal Affairs Director, and how much she has done.
3 And I just have seen what a great partnership. Mike, Sierra
4 have been just stellar on moving things forward and working
5 with all of the other teams, and so I wanted to make sure
6 we gave her a big thank you for that.

7 And I have been able to speak about the
8 microgrids that have been led by tribes at different times
9 in different venues, and just about how transformational
10 these microgrids are. This one technology for folks and
11 the tribes have been able to get out front and be models
12 and leaders. So I'm really excited about this.

13 And Linnea, I think you're such a wonderful
14 representative overall, not just for Hoopa, and really glad
15 that you're coming forward with this. And thank you for
16 being our partner as well on all things.

17 And Jana, you've been also stellar. I'm so glad
18 you're here at the Energy Commission. But I want to
19 highlight what a big difference you made also being on the
20 DACAG when you were at Blue Lake Rancheria and bringing all
21 of that insight to the DACAG, and that helped inform both
22 the Energy Commission and the Public Utilities Commission.
23 So really appreciate you being here, but also the history
24 and legacy that you've built out.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: The last thing I would note,
3 thanks to Sierra, she reminded me that with this vote
4 today, we will now be at \$183 million of grants to support
5 Tribal Energy Sovereignty projects around the state. And
6 it's only been three years since we were together for the
7 Tribal Energy Sovereignty Resolution in the North Coast,
8 and so that's really exciting.

9 And one request I'd have, Linnea, for you and
10 your colleagues is, you know, as this project gets built
11 out, if there's lessons learned, that we can help, you
12 know, be a partner in conveying to other tribes and making
13 sure that what is learned through this project and this
14 process can be amplified and be used in other similar
15 projects. So let's think about how to build on what has
16 been and what will be created here. So look forward to
17 partnering with you.

18 And unless there's any other comments,
19 Commissioner Gallardo, would you be willing to move Item
20 10?

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move Item 10.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from the
23 Vice Chair?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second.

25 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: All in favor, say aye.

1 Commissioner Gallardo?

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Skinner?

6 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Aye.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
10 10 passes unanimously. Thank you, everybody.

11 All right, we are at Item 11, Lead Commissioner
12 of Residing Member Reports.

13 Commissioner McAllister?

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I think for our
15 expedience, I'm going to pass today.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, let's, and brevity is
17 very much appreciated.

18 Okay, Commissioner Gallardo?

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: We have images today, so
20 I'll bring them up, but I'll try to be quick, regardless.

21 We'll go to the next slide.

22 I wanted to highlight that we're doing a lot on
23 geothermal, and there's been a lot of enthusiasm, not just
24 on my team but others, and have been invited to different
25 events, including the Power Association of Northern

1 California invited me to speak on geothermal at an event
2 down in San Diego.

3 And then also attended a couple of events in
4 Calgary, Canada. One was an Indigenous Geothermal
5 Symposium, which started out Geothermal World Congress.
6 And this was really exciting to learn from other countries
7 what they're doing on geothermal.

8 There's a representative there in the photo from
9 Kenya. She's part of the Maasai community in Kenya and
10 grew up near the geothermal fields, but didn't know what
11 they were. When she was a little girl, she would see the
12 plumes and thought that people were cooking a lot, like all
13 day, and then now she was supported by different champions
14 and is trying to get a job now in the geothermal industry.
15 She is an engineer. And so going from being that little
16 girl not knowing what these plumes were to now someone
17 who's going to be directly working with geothermal, I
18 thought was fascinating. And so there's a lot of
19 excitement from folks like her in other countries, and so
20 it was really good for me to be there.

21 And I also wanted to uplift that starting with
22 the Indigenous Symposium was really nice because there's a
23 lot of Indigenous communities that are talking about
24 geothermal as a way to support their way of living. And so
25 that's an image of someone presenting there from an

1 Indigenous community in Taiwan. Generally, the feeling is
2 that it's not NIMBY, it's WIMBY, welcome in my backyard
3 with geothermal, which I think is really nice, especially
4 with some of the sentiment on other technologies that we're
5 facing.

6 I also wanted to highlight that we had the first
7 workshop for the Geothermal chapter in the IEPR. This
8 happened on Friday. It was a way for us to celebrate
9 Juneteenth. And really wanted to appreciate Sandra and her
10 team for putting on the IEPR proceedings. Also, my Chief
11 of Staff, Eric Stokes, for leading us on geothermal and
12 also working as a good partner with the IEPR team to put
13 that workshop together. It went really well. We had over
14 130 people attending. And that was a Friday. World Cup
15 was happening, Juneteenth was happening, so I thought that
16 was a really good sign, and again, just the enthusiasm.

17 I want to thank Commissioner -- or excuse me,
18 Vice Chair Gunda for joining on the workshop. Also, CPUC
19 Commissioner Houck and CEO of CAISO, Elliot Mainzer, also
20 joined us, so it was really, really, really wonderful.
21 We're going to have another workshop July 9th, so stay
22 tuned for that.

23 We'll go to the next slide.

24 All right, I also wanted to note that I've been
25 doing a lot of international work as well here. I attended

1 a Korea Friendship Night. Also went to an event that was
2 put on by LCI and Sam Assefa, the director, is in that
3 photo there, along with Blue Lake Rancheria, as well,
4 focused on relationship building with the Netherlands, and
5 so that was really helpful to be there. Just talked more
6 generally about the work that Energy Commission is doing
7 and how California is still staying at the front. I think
8 that's the main message that other countries want to hear,
9 is that California is still being bold and ambitious,
10 despite what's going on at the federal level.

11 And then there's a photo at the bottom there, a
12 big group. This was the new governor of Aguascalientes, a
13 state in Mexico. She's the first female governor there, so
14 that was really exciting. She and I really bonded. I told
15 her I was the first Latina to serve as a Commissioner here
16 at the Energy Commission.

17 She's really excited about bringing more clean
18 energy to Aguascalientes. We had an MOU with them from
19 2017 to 2019. Commissioner McAllister, I think you might
20 have been supportive of that, and then Commissioner
21 Hochschild signed off on that MOU, so they're interested to
22 see if we can do any more work more closely together on
23 clean energy, and she has a good connection to President
24 Sheinbaum as well, who's also a leader in clean energy. So
25 I thought that was a strategic relationship building there

1 with them.

2 And then we'll go to the next slide.

3 I also just want to highlight continuing to do a
4 lot of good work with tribes. This, again, is mostly due
5 to our Director of Tribal Affairs, Sierra Graves, and her
6 team. They're continuing to find opportunities for us to
7 engage, including with this Tribal Leaders Energy and
8 Safety Summit that's put on by the investor-owned
9 utilities, so it was good for us to be there. It was at
10 the Viejas site. I hadn't seen the microgrid there, so it
11 was very cool to see it. The team there gets almost
12 emotional and teary-eyed when they think about the Energy
13 Commission's investment into that microgrid and what a big
14 difference it's making. So again, you know, we heard
15 earlier about what a difference it made for Blue Lake, what
16 a difference it will make for Hoopa, and here again with
17 Viejas.

18 We'll go to the next slide.

19 All right, oh, and then while I was in San Diego,
20 I also got to do a tour and site visit of SDG&E's Wildfire
21 and Climate Resilience Center, which was phenomenal.
22 Sarah, who is here, was able to put that together for us.
23 And I mostly put this in as a reminder to you all, if you
24 haven't visited, I would encourage you, Commissioners, to
25 visit the Center. It's really good to see how everything

1 runs so smoothly. And they've enabled so much good
2 technology and keep improving on it.

3 And one thing I noticed, too, is there's a tribe
4 who also is connecting their camera feed or video feed into
5 the system. I think it has a lot of potential for us to do
6 even better on wildfire mitigation, prevention, and
7 resolution.

8 We'll go to the next slide. All right.

9 I'm also doing a lot on fusion, well, not a lot,
10 but trying to get out there and learn more about fusion. I
11 think it would check a lot of the boxes that we want with
12 clean energy. And so I was able to visit a lab, the Blue
13 Laser Fusion tour -- or excuse me, Blue Laser Fusion Lab
14 out in Goleta, which is Santa Barbara area. And that was
15 great to see.

16 And it was a big highlight to meet Dr. Shuji
17 Nakamura, who's the CEO of Blue Laser Fusion. He was a
18 Nobel Prize winner and co-inventor of LED lights. He's
19 using that to see if we can improve the efficiency of these
20 lasers that are being used for fusion. And we'll see if
21 they can make them commercially viable. So that's a photo
22 there. And I also would encourage you all to do some of
23 those site visits and have connections with Blue Laser if
24 you want to take advantage of that.

25 I think that does it for me.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair?

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo -- or
6 Commissioner Skinner?

7 COMMISSINER SKINNER: Thank you. CalSTA and CEC
8 hosted a workshop with state agencies and external partners
9 from various local governments, utilities, others, too,
10 focused on aligning our medium-duty and heavy-duty zero-
11 emission vehicles and infrastructure for them are different
12 incentives.

13 And it would obviously be great if there was much
14 more alignment and coordination because we find that
15 oftentimes funding by, say, CARB or funding by the CEC will
16 have different -- will be similar and yet have different
17 requirements and making it much more difficult for a
18 project applicant to try to merge the funds if they need
19 both sources to complete their activity. And, of course,
20 we find the same where CCAs can sometimes offer funding or
21 a utility or even one of our air districts. So it was a
22 good first start. We'll see if it results in some positive
23 and actual alignment.

24 I attended the Coalition for Clean Air's Summit,
25 which was fascinating. It was in San Pedro. And it

1 included tours in the Long Beach and L.A. Harbor areas,
2 ports areas. And the tours included visiting a terminal
3 that is utilizing electric powered top handlers, and they
4 are U.S. manufactured and they have already five that are
5 installed and they're using, and a number of additional
6 ones on order.

7 Then I attended, also, a Port Electrification
8 Conference, and with that conference did a tour of a
9 company that does an emissions control -- or emissions
10 capture technology that now we have at-birth regulations
11 regarding emissions and tankers and others are not really
12 able to do shore electrification. So there's this company,
13 STAX, that is testing now an emissions capture technology.
14 And the Air Resources Board staff were with us and they are
15 monitoring that to see if it is in fact successful.

16 And while I was in that area, my Chief of Staff,
17 Jana Ganion and I had meetings with LADWP, with the L.A.
18 Olympics, L.A. '28 Committee, the City of L.A., and L.A.
19 Metro to discuss now that. We're getting very close to the
20 L.A. '28 games. We wanted to get more concrete information
21 about how not only the CEC but the state could be helpful
22 with the games transportation electrification goals. And
23 of course our interest is, yes, supporting those goals for
24 L.A. '28 but making sure that investments that we make are
25 going to be utilized past L.A. '28.

1 And one of the promising areas is school buses
2 because the games will be utilizing many electric school
3 buses, and those school buses are likely then to be
4 retained by school districts in the region. And so
5 infrastructure to support them could be very, very, very
6 helpful for many of our purposes.

7 I wanted to make a couple of announcements about
8 upcoming things. One, our Clean Transportation Program
9 Advisory Committee will have its second meeting on June
10 30th at 9:00 a.m. That's both in-person and virtual. And
11 we are moving very quickly to adopt our Clean
12 Transportation Program Investment Plan so that we can bring
13 it to the business meeting for adoption before we're too
14 far into the next fiscal year.

15 We also have -- FTD has a number of solicitations
16 that are currently out and active. One of them I mentioned
17 at the last meeting but I'll repeat it here and that is EV
18 HOME and it's designed to fund community-based groups who
19 would bundle incentives to help families in disadvantaged
20 community areas and low-income communities purchase an EV,
21 acquire an EV, but also then support to either install
22 their charging or get access to a charging facility.

23 Then we have a solicitation called RECESS, which
24 is to support the infrastructure for school buses, charging
25 electric school buses. We have a hydrogen infrastructure

1 solicitation that is due in August that is open right now.
2 And then the sixth round of our NEVI funding is out on the
3 street, the solicitation, and it's due October 16th.

4 And that's my report.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. In the interest of
6 time, I will skip.

7 So let's go to Item 12, Executive Director's
8 Report.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOHAN: Thanks, Chair,
10 Commissioner. There's no report today.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Let's go to Item 13, Public
12 Advisory Report.

13 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to
14 again welcome our Deputy Public Advisor. Welcome to the
15 team. We can't wait to have you dig in and look forward to
16 your leadership.

17 And then also I wanted to plug the 2026 IEPR
18 Workshop that's going to be on the 30th. It's going to
19 provide an update on our commitment to embed equity and
20 environmental justice in our policies and programs. As
21 mentioned, we have some great speakers and I look forward
22 to seeing you all there.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Thank you.

24 Item 13 -- sorry, Item 14, Chief Counsel's
25 Report.

1 MR. RANCHOD: Thank you, Chair. I have three
2 items for today's report.

3 The first is an update on the Trump
4 administration's efforts to indefinitely pause all
5 permitting and approval activities related to onshore and
6 offshore wind energy projects pending further interagency
7 review. This was through the Day 1 Presidential Wind
8 Memorandum that was issued in January 2025. You may
9 recall, that act by the President created widespread
10 uncertainty and disruption for ongoing wind energy
11 development nationwide.

12 In response, California and a multi-state
13 coalition filed a lawsuit challenging the Anti-Wind Day 1
14 Memo. The CEC prepared a supporting declaration for that
15 case focused on California's standing and the tangible
16 impacts of the Anti-Wind Day 1 Memo on the state's
17 renewable energy planning and development objectives.

18 In December, the Federal District Court granted
19 summary judgment in favor of the state plaintiffs declaring
20 the Anti-Wind Day 1 Memo to be unlawful and vacating it in
21 its entirety. The Trump administration appealed the
22 court's order to the First Circuit, then reversed course
23 and filed a motion to dismiss its appeal.

24 I'm pleased to report that a week ago, the Trump
25 administration did entirely abandon its effort, and last

1 Monday the court's judgment granting a voluntary dismissal
2 of the appeal cemented the state's victory in this case.

3 The Trump administration's attacks on clean
4 energy and clean air are continuing, of course, despite
5 these legal setbacks. So unfortunately, in that vein, I
6 want to bring to your attention that this morning, Attorney
7 General Bonta announced the state is suing the Trump
8 administration yet again, this time for its latest attack
9 on California's efforts to improve air quality and protect
10 public health.

11 And as you may have heard, last week, US EPA
12 purported to reclassify four Clean Air Act preemption
13 waivers that were previously granted by US EPA to
14 California to reclassify them as rules that are now subject
15 to congressional disapproval. The four Clean Air Act
16 waivers which allow California to implement are CARB's 2008
17 greenhouse gas emission standards for cars, CARB's 2012
18 emission standards for cars, those are the Advanced Clean
19 Cars I rule, and the 2022 small off-road engine rule
20 amendments collectively enable California to enforce state-
21 level emission standards to address our severe pollution.

22 In over 50 years since the Clean Air Act was
23 enacted, neither its preemption waivers nor any other
24 federal agency actions that adjudicate requests for
25 permission, such as oil and gas leases, have ever been

1 considered rules subject to congressional disapproval. So
2 last week's action by US EPA purporting to reclassify those
3 four waivers as rules and then submitting them to Congress
4 for review under the Congressional Review Act is another
5 attempt to end run administrative procedure just as the
6 agency attempted to do last year with respect to three
7 other Clean Air Act waivers.

8 The CEC is not part of this new case which was
9 filed this morning in federal district court in Washington,
10 D.C., but we appreciate the AG's Office's zealous advocacy
11 on behalf of the state in this important litigation, the
12 case that successfully challenged the Anti-Wind Day 1
13 directive I mentioned earlier, and in several other pending
14 cases in which their team is representing CEC.

15 Second, I'd like to welcome the newest attorney
16 in CEC's legal team. Stephanie Lai joined the Chief
17 Counsel's Office on June 1st as an Attorney IV in our
18 Advocacy and Compliance Unit. As you know, attorneys in
19 that unit, also known as the A-Team, advise CEC staff and
20 Commissioners on permitting proceedings for projects under
21 the opt-in certification program, including compliance with
22 CEQA, among many other work streams that support mission-
23 critical work of CEC.

24 Stephanie joins us from the state AG's office
25 where she served as a Deputy Attorney General in the land

1 Use and Conservation Section of the Public Rights Division.
2 Before that, Stephanie spent a decade as senior staff
3 counsel at the State Department of Toxic Substances
4 Control.

5 Welcome, Stephanie. We look forward to your
6 contributions in CCO.

7 I also should mention that we're grateful to Matt
8 Pinkerton for stepping into the role of Acting Assistant
9 Chief Counsel of the Advocacy and Compliance Unit in late
10 May. Matt previously led that unit for more than two years
11 and will serve as acting ACC until a permanent hire is made
12 for that ACC position next month.

13 That concludes my report. The Commission will
14 next adjourn to closed session. Pursuant to Government
15 Code section 11126(e), the Commission may adjourn to closed
16 session with the legal counsel to discuss whether to
17 initiate litigation and to discuss pending litigation,
18 including the matters listed in Item 14b of the published
19 agenda for this meeting.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, we're adjourned for
21 closed session. Thanks.

22 (The Commissioner adjourned to closed session from
23 12:51 p.m. until 2:56 p.m.)

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, we are adjourned.
25 Nothing to report from closed session. Thanks.

(The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of July, 2026.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

July 7, 2026

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367