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Xeal Energy Comments on Wave 5 Communities in Charge

See attached letter.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



July 10, 2026

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 22-EVI-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket No. 22-EVI-02– Communities In Charge EV Infrastructure Incentives

Dear California Energy Commission and CALSTART Staff,

Xeal Energy (Xeal) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Communities In Charge EV Infrastructure Incentives and development of the Wave 5 funding guidelines. We would like to thank staff for their continued work and leadership in supporting EV charging infrastructure deployment in California.

Xeal has developed the next generation of EV chargers to help address the issue of reliability. Xeal was founded by a group of individuals who were also frustrated with no-charge events and sought solutions to this problem. Xeal's charging infrastructure does not rely on a central point of internet connectivity, which causes most of the charging reliability issues today. Instead, users are provided unique and encrypted tokens that authorize, activate, and transact charging sessions without internet service directly between the charger and phone. All the smart computing is done onsite and during this interaction. This means chargers can operate anywhere – including parking garages and communities with limited internet connection and enable a near 100% uptime and frictionless user experience.

Primarily focused on supporting multifamily housing and commercial real estate owners and operators, our partners manage these smart EV charging stations remotely through Xeal's dashboard, providing real-time data on charging sessions, energy management, utilization, and revenue share. Our driver app employs token-based technology for EV drivers to gain reliable access to charging stations without relying on cellular or garage IT infrastructure. Our chargers require zero connection to the backend, therefore there is no "loss of connectivity" because it is always present between the driver's phone and the charger through our secure, short-range communication protocol.

Within the Wave 5 guidelines, we support inclusion of a pathway for an OCPP certified L2 charger and clarifying OCPP certification for the hardware/EVSE meets eligibility requirements. Specifically, utilizing the existing Communities in Charge Implementation Manual, we recommend modifying the current equipment requirements from "Be OCPP v2.0.1 certified by the Open Charge Alliance" to "Comply with all data on throughput, usage, and operations of Level 2 EVSEs as listed in Section 6.2.3." This enables the CEC to still gather all the same throughput, usage, and operations data and ensures that the EV infrastructure funded by the CEC is still functional if a company goes out of business. Additionally, we respectfully request that all Level 2 chargers that can provide the same data have the same rebate amount, to provide a level playing field amongst technologies.

Xeal appreciates the opportunity to support and provide input on CEC's development of the Communities In Charge EV Infrastructure Incentives and Wave 5 funding guidelines. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with staff as the guidelines are developed.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Smith

Michael A. Smith
Head of Deployments and Policy
Xeal Energy