

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	26-IEPR-05
Project Title:	Energy Equity and Environmental Justice
TN #:	271433
Document Title:	Climate Jobs California Comments on Labor Standards and High-Road Workforce Development
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Climate Jobs California
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/14/2026 2:18:16 PM
Docketed Date:	7/14/2026

Comment Received From: Climate Jobs California
Submitted On: 7/14/2026
Docket Number: 26-IEPR-05

Docket No 26-IEPR-05 - Comments on Labor Standards and High-Road Workforce Development

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



July 14, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. 26-IEPR-05 – Comments on Labor Standards and High-Road Workforce Development

Dear Chair, Hochschild and Members of the California Energy Commission:

On behalf of Climate Jobs California, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the California Energy Commission's ongoing efforts to strengthen workforce equity, labor standards, and workforce development through the 2026 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) process and the Justice, Access, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JAEDI) Framework.

Climate Jobs California is an organization dedicated to advancing responsible clean energy deployment through high-road labor standards, workforce development, and partnerships that create family-supporting careers while helping California achieve its climate and energy goals.

California has established some of the most ambitious clean energy and climate goals in the nation. Achieving those goals will require not only investment in new infrastructure, but investment in the highly skilled workforce that will design, build, operate, and maintain that infrastructure for decades to come. Strong labor standards are not separate from successful project delivery—they are fundamental to it.

California's clean energy future should be built by a highly trained California workforce using high-road labor standards that benefit workers, communities, and project success.

As the Commission continues implementing the JAEDI Framework, Climate Jobs California encourages the CEC to prioritize policies that support high-road workforce development by:

- Promoting strong labor standards that create safe, family-supporting careers while ensuring high quality construction and project reliability.

- Supporting state-approved joint labor-management apprenticeship training partnerships that prepare the next generation of skilled workers needed to meet California's growing clean energy demands.
- Expanding the use of skilled and trained workforce requirements, where appropriate, to help ensure publicly funded projects are completed safely, efficiently, and to the highest standards.
- Encouraging local hire, apprenticeship readiness, and workforce development partnerships that provide pathways into long-term careers for Californians from every region of the state.
- Supporting Community Benefits Agreements that bring together developers, labor, local governments, Tribal Nations where appropriate, community organizations, and high-road workforce partners to create transparent commitments around local hiring, workforce development, apprenticeship opportunities, and long-term community investment while helping projects move forward successfully.
- Recognizing that collaboration among labor, industry, educational institutions, community organizations, and government agencies strengthens California's workforce while accelerating responsible clean energy deployment.

High-road workforce standards are more than workforce policy—they are sound economic policy. Investments in apprenticeship training and skilled workers improve safety, increase productivity, strengthen local economies, help projects finish on time, and ensure public investments deliver lasting value for California communities.

Climate Jobs California appreciates the Commission's commitment to developing policies that advance both California's clean energy future and economic opportunity. Climate Jobs California believes responsible for clean energy deployment and high-road workforce standards go hand in hand, creating durable economic opportunities while helping California meet its climate and energy goals.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Commission and stakeholders to help ensure California's clean energy transition creates family-supporting careers, strengthens apprenticeship and workforce training partnerships, supports meaningful community benefits, and delivers the skilled workforce needed to build the state's energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hunerlach
Executive Director
Climate Jobs California