

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	26-IEPR-05
Project Title:	Energy Equity and Environmental Justice
TN #:	271440
Document Title:	Maia Cheli Comments - Schatz Center comment on energy equity & Tribal workforce development
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Maia Cheli
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/14/2026 4:51:26 PM
Docketed Date:	7/14/2026

Comment Received From: Maia Cheli
Submitted On: 7/14/2026
Docket Number: 26-IEPR-05

Schatz Center comment on energy equity & Tribal workforce development

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

July 14, 2026

From: Maia Cheli, Senior Development Manager, Schatz Energy Research Center

Re: Tribal workforce development (26-IEPR-05 and 25-OIIP-01)

Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to center equity and environmental justice through the work of the commission. I was very glad to hear support for Tribal activities uplifted during the workforce panel at the IEPR meeting on June 30.

Through our work with Tribes on California's north coast to support their resiliency & clean energy projects, we have found that multiple workforce development aspects need to be considered simultaneously, including:

1. How to build long-standing capacity and expertise in ***Tribal governments***, including Tribal utilities
2. How to create robust pathways, including culturally-relevant wraparound support structures, that enable ***Tribal members*** to initiate and maintain living wage careers in the energy workforce
3. How to respect and honor ***Tribal sovereignty*** when setting workforce requirements and designing funding & development opportunities

4. How to work with **Tribal TERO and education programs**, and provide funding for indigenous-led training programs, including non-union Tribal structures
5. How to work with Tribal communities to intentionally **train and select** people who will be working on energy projects in Tribal communities – and build **community safety accountability** into staff/labor management systems
6. How to advance overall **Tribal community health** by supporting the post-commission period, e.g. including the first year+ of operations & maintenance activities within funding opportunities.

Many of these elements are applicable whether the proposed project is Tribally-led or in a Tribe's ancestral lands and waters. For example, training and selection of staff and development of accountable management systems (#5) is critical to reversing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people, and to supporting overall Tribal and community safety, for any development project. Likewise, integrating culturally-relevant wraparound support structures (#2) can enable Tribal members to fully participate in economic development opportunities in their home communities and across the state.

Thank you again for your leadership toward increased equity in our energy systems.

Yours,

Maia Cheli