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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

	)	
Business Meeting	)	Docket No. 26-BUSMTG-01
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

In-person at:

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

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Reported by:
 Martha Nelson

APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

David Hochschild, Chair

J. Andrew McAllister, Commissioner

Noemi Gallardo, Commissioner

Nancy Skinner, Commissioner

STAFF

Drew Bohan, Executive Director

Sanjay Ranchod, Chief Counsel

Sandra Nakagawa, Director, IEPR

Kelsey Choying, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental
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Kadir Bedir, Supervisor, Distributed Energy Resource Unit

Rachel Kuykendall, Natural Gas Unit

Alejandro Rios, Electric Gen System Specialist, Energy
Research and Development Division, Renewable Integration
Unit

Amber Beck, Energy Commission Specialist II, RREDI, Federal
Incentives and Financing Branch

Sara Miles, Labor and Workforce Development Advisor, CEC

Hannah Thadani, Fellow to Commissioner Gallardo

PUBLIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE

Ryan Young, Public Advisor

APPEARANCESALSO PRESENT

Mindy Graybill, Department of Water Resources

Molly Sterkel, California Public Utilities Commission

Mark Rothleder, California Independent System Operators

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sophia Lay, Yurok Tribe, Planning and Development
Department

Dustin Jolley, OurEnergy LLC

Stephen Rosenblum

Mark Mulliner, State Building and Construction Trades
Council

Christopher Ruch, SMART Local 104

Curtis Notsinneh, Strategy Workplace Communications

Mike Mendoza, IBEW Local 684

Alicia Mijares, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104

Alex Tiechner, Northern California Valley Sheet Metal
Workers Training Center, and Modesto Area Sheet Metal
Workers Training Center

Shane Lee, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 Training Center

Marcia Wilson, Los Angeles Trade Technical College

Dean Lee, SMART Local 206

Jeremy Zeedek

Eric Priest, Fresno Sheet Metal Training Center

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1:31 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

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

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Well, thanks,
everybody. Welcome. Thanks, everybody, for coming. My
name is Andrew McAllister, Commissioner at the California
Energy Commission. And today is July 8, 2026, and I call
this meeting to order.

Joining me in person are Commissioner Gallardo on
my left and Commissioner Skinner on my right. Chair David
Hochschild is participating remotely, and I believe he has
a Wi-Fi connection that's functional. And so we have
quorum.

And I would invite Chair Hochschild to read a
statement. Do we have connectivity? Okay. All right.
Well, so I think we can move on since we have quorum with
the three of us. And then could you, Public Advisor, let
us know when he's online and can jump in? Okay, great.
Thank you.

Okay, so we'll put off the disclosure statement
from Commissioner -- from Chair Hochschild and move on to
the Pledge of Allegiance. Let us stand for the pledge.

(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited in unison.)

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. So we will
2 first take public comment and then move on to agency
3 announcements. Our Public Advisor can give the
4 instructions for public comment.

5 Ryan?

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

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

15 Now for the instructions. If you are in the
16 room, please use the QR code posted in the back or visit
17 the Public Advisor table. If you're on Zoom, you're going
18 to click on the raise-hand feature on your Zoom screen.
19 And if you're joining by phone, you want to press star nine
20 to raise your hand.

21 To ensure that we can hear from everyone and get
22 through the agenda, comments will be limited to two minutes
23 or less per speaker and one speaker per entity. You'll be
24 called upon when it's your time to comment.

25 I would like to first welcome Chairman James of

1 the Yurok Tribe. Chairman James, are you here? Sophia
2 Lay? Oh, excuse me.

3 Okay, that concludes public comment for this
4 item.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Terrific.
6 Thank you.

7 So moving to Item 2, Agency Announcements.

8 First, I think we all should reflect a little bit
9 on the 250 Independence Day of the 250th birthday of the
10 United States. Hope everybody had a great 4th weekend.
11 And here in California, we are deeply grateful for those
12 who came before us. And proud to be implementing policies
13 that support our clean air goals, our clean energy goals
14 here in the state that will protect future generations for
15 many years.

16 I think it's worth highlighting that we're living
17 a unique moment. And I think California, more than ever,
18 really has the responsibility, obligation and opportunity
19 to lead much more broadly and more clearly and more
20 publicly than maybe even in the past, just given what's
21 going on at the national level and kind of the conflicts in
22 today's world. So I think we all take that responsibility
23 very, very seriously here at the Commission. I know our
24 partners across the agencies do as well and the leadership
25 on the staff side of the Commission. So we're really all

1 on the same page there. And I know all of you are as well.
2 So really appreciate everyone's contributions to the
3 enterprise here in the state.

4 Today, the Commission seeks to approve just over
5 \$16 million in investments contributing to our state's
6 economy and the aforementioned energy transition.

7 I wanted to ask any agency announcements from my
8 colleagues. Commissioner Gallardo?

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Buenas tardes. Good
10 afternoon, everyone. Thank you, Commissioner McAllister.

11 So we like to acknowledge the people serving the
12 state of California, especially when they're at the Energy
13 Commission, and especially when they reach a major
14 milestone like retirement. And today I am so honored to
15 celebrate Lisa Worrall. She could not attend today's
16 meeting due to a prior obligation she had, but we will
17 share this recording with her. And I wanted to provide
18 some words from friends and colleagues here at the
19 Commission.

20 Let me start here. So Lisa has served the state
21 of California for 20 years, with 16 of those years at the
22 California Energy Commission. Lisa has been a project
23 manager for over seven years, supporting all of our
24 licensing programs. Lisa is a strong project manager and
25 CEQA practitioner who handled complex teams and tight

1 timelines. Lisa's deep knowledge and strong attention to
2 detail helped keep projects on track. Lisa contributed to
3 process improvements and was always willing to mentor
4 others. Lisa set a positive example for the team and was
5 someone we could count on for thoughtful planning and
6 support.

7 I personally had the pleasure to work with Lisa
8 since I started here at the Energy Commission back in 2019,
9 I was the Public Advisor, and we worked on several siting
10 proceedings then, mostly small power plant exemptions. And
11 most currently, I've been working with Lisa on Opt-In
12 proceedings. And I always enjoyed working with Lisa
13 because she has a great combination of knowledge, humility,
14 and humor that she brings to work. And she was always
15 willing to share her knowledge and explain the processes,
16 which was especially helpful to me when I started out as
17 Public Advisor. And I think that made me a better
18 Commissioner as well.

19 Lisa also demonstrated a strong commitment to the
20 Energy Commission's equity-focused values by writing the
21 first standalone environmental justice analysis in staff
22 assessments, then spearheading the template that is now
23 used in all staff assessments and the public notice
24 templates for the Opt-In Certification Program, which is
25 our marquee program right now.

1 So I can testify to her commitment to these
2 principles of justice, access, equity, diversity,
3 inclusion. When I was Public Advisor, she was always
4 receptive to my ideas on the environmental justice
5 analysis, and she was a great partner brainstorming ways to
6 improve our outreach to communities for siting proceedings.
7 She was always willing to find creative solutions and to go
8 above and beyond. She wanted to ensure the community had
9 the information they needed and in all languages as well.

10 So we will miss having Lisa as a permanent
11 employee here, but we are trying to convince her to return
12 as a retired annuitant. So Lisa, you have been a paragon
13 of public service, stepping up to do your best in every
14 way. California is better off because of all that you have
15 contributed, and the Energy Commission will be eternally
16 grateful for your service. And whether we get you back or
17 not as a retired annuitant, on behalf of the STEP Division,
18 the Executive Office, and the entire Energy Commission, we
19 wish you the best in your retirement. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Let's give an in
21 absentia round of applause to Lisa.

22 (Applause)

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: That was beautiful.
24 Thank you, Commissioner Gallardo.

25 Commissioner Skinner, any agency announcements

1 would you like to say? Okay, great.

2 Okay, well, let's turn now to Item 3, Consent.
3 Let's see, any public comment on item three? I think we
4 are expecting some possibly.

5 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
7 Item 3. Again, to notify us that you'd like to make a
8 comment, please use the QR code posted in the back, or use
9 the raise-hand feature on Zoom.

10 I would like to welcome Sophia Lay. Sophia, I'm
11 going to unmute your line. Welcome.

12 MS. LAY: Oh, can you hear me okay?

13 MR. YOUNG: We can hear you. Thank you.

14 MS. LAY: Oh, okay. Perfect. Good afternoon.
15 My name is Sophia Lay. I'm the Assistant Director of the
16 Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Development Department,
17 and also a Yurok Tribal member.

18 I just would like to quickly take this
19 opportunity to express my gratitude to the Commissioners
20 and Commission staff for their efforts and commitment to
21 ensuring the funding allocated under agreement
22 EPC-23-30C -- 307 -- 037, sorry, will continue to support a
23 tribal project within a disadvantaged community. I look
24 forward to working with the CEC, our energy, and our
25 partnering agencies to build a clean energy project that

1 significantly improves the reliability of the Hoopa 1101
2 circuit, and also serves as a demonstration project that
3 other rural communities across the state and nation can
4 duplicate to improve their resiliency through the use of
5 renewable energy and innovative technology.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

8 I want to invite the Chairman to come on and say
9 a few words if he is with us. That would be Chairman
10 Joseph James. Okay, I'm not seeing him on the Zoom.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay.

12 MR. YOUNG: Commissioner, I wanted to let you
13 know that the Chair has joined.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great.

15 MR. YOUNG: And we invite him to read a
16 statement.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Go ahead.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Sorry.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Go ahead, Chair.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you again, Commissioner
22 McAllister, for chairing the meeting. I'm in transit in
23 New York State and in a car. I am alone. There are no
24 adults in the room, which I think is the required statement
25 Chief Counsel's Office wanted me to make, and I'll be off

1 camera while I'm in the car. Thanks.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks for
3 joining us, Chair.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 And I next wanted to invite a representative from
6 OurEnergy LLC or Schatz Energy Center to approach the
7 podium. Welcome.

8 MR. JOLLEY: Thank you. Well, thanks,
9 Commissioners. I'm Dustin Jolley. I'm the founder and CEO
10 of Our Energy. I'm a civil engineer and been working in
11 the infrastructure space here my whole career. And we've
12 also had the pleasure of helping execute several of the
13 investments that the CEC has made in the tribal energy
14 space, including the one that's on the docket for today.
15 We're excited and honored to play a small role in
16 delivering that very important project. And I just wanted
17 to take a moment to acknowledge that. And thank you for
18 your trust and confidence in helping deliver this important
19 project.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And thanks for being
22 here.

23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

24 I would like to invite Dustin Jolley. Sorry,
25 excuse me. I'll double check online and see if there's any

1 public comment.

2 Seeing none, back to you, Commissioner.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Great. Thank
4 you, Ryan.

5 So let's move on to Commissioner discussion. I
6 know there's a little bit. Usually we don't have a lot of
7 discussion and comment on the consent item, but this is a
8 little bit of an exception because we have some items that
9 do deserve a bit of comment because they're important.

10 And I wanted to invite Commissioner Gallardo to
11 make any comments. Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Absolutely. So first
13 I'll say thank you to Chairman James, even though he
14 couldn't come on, but was trying to, Sophia and to Dustin,
15 as well, for joining us. We appreciate it when folks can
16 give us their opinions and voice their concerns or their
17 gratitude.

18 I want to make comments on item 3b, the approval
19 of the Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group reappointment
20 and new appointments. So just quickly, thanks to the PAO+
21 Team for all of their diligence to support the DACAG. This
22 is a really important group who helps guide us and keeps us
23 accountable to all of the things that we commit to doing,
24 doing it in the right way, and for all communities in
25 California.

1 And then I also wanted to thank Commissioner
2 Skinner and her team for supporting. They're the associate
3 Commissioner, but are all in on helping us with DACAG. So
4 really appreciate that.

5 And we have three incredible candidates here that
6 are going to be joining the DACAG if we approve. And I
7 wanted to just give them a shout out.

8 So we have Melanie Peck, who's with the U.S.
9 Building Council. We think she's going to add a lot of
10 value, bringing a national perspective to the DACAG, which
11 we haven't had. She also has a lot of expertise on
12 building decarbonization, electrification, which
13 Commissioner McAllister, I think you and your team will be
14 really excited about.

15 And then we also have Ryan O'Neill, who's
16 increasing our geographic diversity. He's in the North
17 Coast, and we haven't had someone in the North Coast for a
18 while, since Jana Ganion left the DACAG. So he'll be
19 valuable in adding that perspective. And he's also been
20 part of a regional energy network, so we think he'll bring
21 some tremendous expertise in that regard as well.

22 And we also have Travis Gibrael, who's an
23 environmental social worker. That's how he describes
24 himself. He's in the Bay Area and really understands the
25 utility space. So we think that will add value, given the

1 work that we do with the Public Utilities Commission.

2 So really excited about these three candidates.
3 And we'll have a fourth candidate, hopefully coming through
4 at the next business meeting as well. So congratulations
5 also to DACAG for filling these seats.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Commissioner
8 McAllister.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you,
10 Commissioner.

11 Commissioner Skinner, any comment on this? No.

12 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: No, just pleased that
13 we're filling those vacancies so that we can have
14 productive meetings and not be concerned about quorums and
15 meet our statutory obligations regarding the Disadvantaged
16 Community Advisory Group. So appreciate everybody's work
17 on it. It took a bit. And greatly appreciate that there's
18 public interested in serving on that body --

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: -- because we did have a
21 good number of applicants and we didn't just appoint the
22 only three that applied, or the only four. So it was a
23 good process and glad we're moving on it.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And this item, just to
25 mention, also includes Sarah Sharpe's reappointment, so

1 that's good as well.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah. Yeah, thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So thanks to Sarah for
4 her ongoing work on the DACAG.

5 But I maybe just would reinforce, this is a super
6 important body. We really do -- they work pretty hard. We
7 do ask a lot of them. And it is also a joint entity that
8 also advises the CPUC, the California Public Utilities
9 Commission. So it really is not -- it is a real effort.
10 And I think it reflects the commitment of the folks who
11 serve on it and the staff who supports it and the
12 Commissioners who primarily work with it, but we all do and
13 we all benefit from it.

14 And I think it's just part of the Energy
15 Commission's commitment to making sure that we are as
16 inclusive as we possibly can be in everything we do. And
17 so, you know, they -- the members of the DACAG individually
18 have lots of expertise. And as a group, they really do
19 hold us accountable to follow through with what we say
20 we're going to do, which, you know, it's a complicated
21 world with lots of different pushes and pulls. And we
22 really need that kind of oversight and voice to be
23 persistent. So thanks to Melanie and Travis and Ryan for
24 being willing to serve, and Sarah.

25 So with that, do I get -- do I have a motion to

1 move Item 3?

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 3.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second, Commissioner
4 Skinner?

5 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All those in favor?
7 Commissioner Gallardo?

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

10 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Chair Hochschild?

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.

14 So Item 3 passes four to zero.

15 All right, let's move on to item 4. This is an
16 informational item, a Department of Water Resources Update
17 on the Strategic Reliability Reserve Investments.

18 I invite Mindy Graybill to present. Thanks for
19 being here.

20 MS. GRAYBILL: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair,
21 Commissioners. Thank you for having me. I'm Mindy
22 Graybill. I'm the Policy Advisor to Deputy Director Hou,
23 who oversees the Statewide Energy Office within the
24 Department of Water Resources. I'm here to provide the
25 update for the Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability

1 Reserve Program.

2 Next slide, please.

3 In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 was created as the
4 state's Strategic Reliability Reserve. There are three
5 parts to this reserve, two of so are overseen by the CEC
6 and are focused on demand response and distributed
7 resources, whereas our program within DWR is focused on
8 grid-connected resources. The program, commonly known as
9 ESSRRP, acts as the insurance policy and safeguards the
10 statewide electric grid during extreme and combined events,
11 such as wildfires, heat events, droughts, all driven by
12 climate change. Our program also supports California's
13 transition a clean energy future.

14 Next slide, please.

15 Per our Water Code, DWR is required to present
16 and provide regular updates at the Energy Commission
17 meetings for all investments made and, sorry, made and
18 under consideration for the program.

19 Moreover, the legislation does require the
20 attendance of the Public Utilities Commission and the
21 California Independent System Operator. So there is a
22 representative online virtually today for each, and thank
23 you to them for being available today.

24 Today is our 16th update to the Energy
25 Commission, and we expect the next to occur later this year

1 in quarter four.

2 Next slide, please.

3 There are five distinct types of projects within
4 our program. The first is the extension of operating life
5 of existing general -- sorry, generating facilities planned
6 for retirement. The second is new temporary power
7 generators, five megawatts or more. And the third is
8 facilities using clean, zero emission fuel technology.
9 Lastly, the new energy storage systems of 20 megawatts or
10 more, being capable of discharging for at least two hours.
11 Our last -- I'm sorry, our last, fifth, is to reimburse
12 electrical corporations for imports that were produced
13 above market cost and in excess of our procurement
14 authorizations and requirements.

15 Next slide, please. Thank you.

16 Okay, this slide provides a snapshot of total
17 investments, including the ESSRRP, starting from 2022.
18 Over time, DWR's investments have evolved away from diesel
19 and from imports to in-state resources. This includes
20 contracts to extend the operation of retiring facilities at
21 the recommendation of the Energy Commission, the CPUC, the
22 Utilities Commission, and the CAISO through the Statewide
23 Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures,
24 known as the SACCWIS. So we look to the SACCWIS for
25 expertise for all of our policies on whether or not any

1 extensions -- or any recommendations for extensions.

2 For summer 2025, we had up to 3,079 megawatts of
3 energy -- sorry, emergency and temporary resources
4 available to respond to CAISO and other major California
5 balancing authorities. As you're aware, we've had a mild
6 summer without electric reliability emergencies. Moving
7 into our summer, we are really expecting to have the same
8 amount of capacity available through our program. There is
9 an expiration of the time schedule order for the AES
10 Alamitos facility that could de-rate the unit when inlet
11 temperatures are high. And for any de-rate that would be
12 conducted in real time with close coordination between DWR
13 and the CAISO to monitor those temperatures.

14 It is important to note that our resources under
15 the program are default off. We expect -- sorry, are
16 default off and expect to be on only called upon in extreme
17 events, required maintenance, and testing. For short start
18 units, as you see in the table here, they respond
19 automatically to energy emergency alert watches and
20 anything higher above from major California balancing
21 authorities. And for our long start units, they respond
22 under CAISO operator direction.

23 Currently, we do not have any new resources under
24 contract. We remain open to any opportunities and we
25 prioritize investments that do not compete with facilities

1 already planned by any load-serving entity or public
2 utilities.

3 I want to thank and acknowledge the considerable
4 amount of coordination that the Energy Commission, the
5 CPUC, and the CAISO have in developing and maintaining the
6 state strategic reliability reserve.

7 This concludes my presentation. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you. Thanks for
9 being here. We really appreciate these updates. And I
10 think it highlights the coordination across all the
11 agencies. And this presentation and several prior, I think
12 have reflected the fact that our reliability situation is
13 much, much improved from when we started this journey. And
14 I know Vice Chair Gunda would say the same thing if he were
15 here. So I really appreciate that.

16 And I want to acknowledge Molly Sterkel who's on
17 the line from the CPUC. Did you have any comments or
18 questions or at all? Really appreciate you joining us.

19 And I see Mark Rothleder as well. So thanks,
20 Mark.

21 MS. STERKEL: Thanks. Good afternoon,
22 Commissioners. I will just add that I think we had a
23 successful workshop in May at the Energy Commission,
24 talking about reliability, and things continue to show a
25 cautiously optimistic outlook. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks, Molly.

2 And I want to also acknowledge Mark Rothleder
3 from the CAISO.

4 MR. ROTHLEDER: Yeah, I also want to express
5 appreciation for all the effort in the past summers and
6 this summer. As Molly indicated, we're cautiously
7 optimistic and things are looking good at the first start
8 of this summer. But if and when we need those resources,
9 we appreciate DWR's availability and collaboration.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks. I
12 mean, thinking, seeing what having some friends and
13 colleagues over in Europe and seeing what they went through
14 over the last few weeks with the heat there and stressed
15 grids and just quite tremendous, so we are going to be
16 battling climate change and we never know how, what the
17 future holds. So really appreciate this backstop resource
18 and the partnership with DWR.

19 Any other comments? Yeah, Commissioner Gallardo.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I also want to express my
21 gratitude to you, Mindy, for coming and also to Delphine,
22 for both of you, your leadership on this program. Also
23 want to say happy Sweet 16 and thanks for not getting tired
24 of us coming.

25 I was just curious if you could talk a little bit

1 more about the AES situation. I think you mentioned high
2 temperatures. If you could be a little bit more specific
3 about what that is in any other context you think could be
4 helpful.

5 MS. GRAYBILL: Yeah, so the loss of the -- sorry.
6 Okay. Thank you. Okay.

7 So through this change, the -- or what we're
8 seeing in real time now for coming up summer is where we
9 were able -- or the unit, the facility, was able to operate
10 through, I believe it was 105-degree temperature at the
11 inlet source. Now that has dropped for the loss of that
12 time schedule.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, okay.

14 MS. GRAYBILL: So due to that, we have to have
15 real-time monitoring live close to an event if at the
16 direction of the CAISO, the facility would need to be
17 called upon. So only in that time.

18 And then, again, because it's real time, we have
19 to monitor that inlet water temperature very closely and
20 with the CAISO. So we understand if the unit has to de-
21 rate, and so, of course, that means the what's being
22 produced is lower.

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you. I appreciate
24 that.

25 MS. GRAYBILL: Of course.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks.

2 Commissioner Skinner?

3 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Thank you. I was budget
4 chair when this Strategic Reliability Reserve was
5 negotiated. And what I'm very pleased about is that we
6 have not had to have -- well, unexpected blackouts we have
7 not had and planned outages we've avoided, other than ones
8 that perhaps would relate to specifically a very particular
9 fire area. But beyond that, the kinds that we had previous
10 to this launch that were because the grid was strained, we
11 have not.

12 And so at the meantime, we have grown in our
13 electric load, so we have more electricity being used than
14 this was -- when this was adopted in 2022. And yet we're
15 seeing very reliable stable grid even in these high heat
16 days. And of course, that's what we want to see continue.
17 That was the purpose of it. And very glad that the
18 Department of Water Resources has been administering it so
19 ably so that we've achieved those goals, so appreciate it.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Skinner, and the previous version of Commissioner Skinner
22 in the legislature who made a lot of this happen. So thank
23 you for your leadership.

24 Chair Hochschild, did you want to make any
25 comments to DWR, Mindy?

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: No comments from me. Thank
2 you.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Great. So this
4 was an informational item and I think we are good to go.
5 So thanks again and we'll see you in another three months.
6 Great.

7 MS. GRAYBILL: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Appreciate you.

9 MS. GRAYBILL: Thank you so much.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks a lot.

11 Okay, moving on to Item 5, 2025 Integrated Energy
12 Policy Report, and Docket 25-IEPR-01, Sandra Nakagawa to
13 present. Thanks Sandra for you and the whole team. I will
14 be hearing from several of the team, I think; right? So,
15 great.

16 MS. NAKAGAWA: Certainly. Good afternoon --

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: -- Chair and
19 Commissioners. I'm Sandra Nakagawa, Director of our
20 Integrated Energy Policy Report, better known as IEPR.

21 Next slide.

22 So the IEPR was created in 2002 through Senate
23 Bill 1389. It allows for more relevant, timely, and
24 efficient reporting to meet the policy development needs of
25 the governor and legislature and the information needs of

1 the public.

2 Next slide.

3 For the 2025 IEPR, we covered four topics, the
4 electricity and gas forecast. This was adopted in the
5 January business meetings. We won't be going in depth into
6 the forecast today. We also looked at accelerating
7 interconnection and energization, an update to the state's
8 load shift goal and assessing clean and renewable hydrogen.

9 I'm going to turn it over to our issue area
10 experts to talk a bit more about each chapter in depth.
11 First, Kelsey Choying will be joining remotely to talk
12 about accelerating interconnection and energization.

13 MS. CHOYING: Good afternoon. I'm Kelsey Choying
14 with the Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection
15 Division. So as Sandra said, I'll just briefly go over
16 Chapter 2, which is on accelerating Interconnection and
17 energization.

18 As we are aware, SB 100 goals have required
19 California to sustain an unprecedented expansion of clean
20 generation, storage, and transmission. And since 2020,
21 California has added more than 25 gigawatts of renewable
22 energy and storage to the grid.

23 So in addition to these new resources, several
24 efforts have also been made to improve the processes that
25 govern the transmission buildout needed to bring future

1 resources online. So in this year's IEPR, we expanded upon
2 the 2023 IEPR to include the state's progress on this
3 front, notably the California ISO's interconnection queue
4 reform efforts from its interconnection process enhancement
5 stakeholder initiatives, as well as the CPUC adoption of
6 General Order 131-E. That is the successor to General
7 Order 131-D and streamlined several aspects of the
8 transmission permitting process under CPUC jurisdiction.

9 Our recommendations in this chapter build upon
10 the recommendations laid out in the 2023 IEPR. So
11 specifically, staff recommend continuing to integrate
12 interconnection queue information into the broader
13 transmission planning processes, improving interconnection
14 and transmission project development tracking and
15 transparency via publicly available tools and datasets,
16 Deploying grid enhancing technologies were possible to
17 expand the capacity of existing transmission rights of way,
18 which could possibly reduce the need for a costly buildout
19 that would otherwise be required to accommodate new
20 interconnecting resources, and finally, exploring
21 opportunities for landscape-level planning, such as
22 transmission corridors.

23 And with that, we will now turn to the chapter on
24 the load shift goal update.

25 MR. BEDIR: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My

1 name is Kadir. It's K-A-D-I-R. I supervise the
2 Distributed Energy Resource Unit in the Energy Assessment
3 Division.

4 For the load shift goal report, we tried to
5 evaluate the progress toward the 7 gigawatt statewide load
6 shift goal. This goal was set by the Commission back in
7 2023 based on modeling work done under the Senate Bill 846.
8 We compiled data from various sources to evaluate the
9 overall load impact of demand flexibility interventions in
10 California through 2030, including reports and enrollment
11 projections provided by IOUs, POUs, CCAs, third-party DR
12 providers, that's demand response providers, and CECs,
13 Demand-Side Grid Support Program.

14 We grouped our results under three categories
15 based on how these interventions are being incorporated
16 into California's resource adequacy planning framework.
17 These categories are Load Modifying, RA Eligible, and
18 Incremental Emergency Programs. The big picture is that as
19 seen on this chart, we had about 10 percent growth between
20 2023 and 2024, so that's like since 2022, since the target
21 was set. However, the projected growth for 2030 is about
22 4.5 gigawatt, and this does not put the state on the
23 trajectory to achieve the 7 gigawatt target.

24 However, we acknowledge that there is additional
25 potential from new and pending initiatives, especially the

1 implementation of hourly dynamic rates, vehicle-to-
2 everything programs, and as well as potential strategies to
3 enable data center load flexibility.

4 Next slide.

5 The team also conducted stakeholder surveys
6 asking for written feedback from about 40 stakeholders and
7 summarized in comments shared during the California Demand
8 Flexibility Summit from May 2025. Overall, stakeholders
9 suggested various strategies for California to scale demand
10 flexibility and improve the progress. These strategies
11 include simplified wholesale market process, simplified
12 utility programs to improve overall consumer experience
13 with program enrollments, a load shift core roadmap to
14 guide policy efforts and interagency coordination, and last
15 but not least, a central data repository and improved
16 device-to-device interoperability for automation service
17 providers to effectively help manage -- help customers with
18 managing their loads and give them timely feedback about
19 their energy consumption.

20 Currently, we are not at a point in time to
21 endorse any specific strategy or make any conclusive
22 remarks about the feasibility of the 7 gigawatt target. We
23 will continue to evaluate the progress with newer data.
24 Meanwhile, we call on agencies to continue to work together
25 to address the policy issues identified in the 2023 Senate

1 Plate 846 report.

2 We will now turn to the chapter on assessing
3 clean and renewable hydrogen.

4 MS. KUYKENDALL: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
5 I am Rachel Kuykendall with our Natural Gas Unit here.
6 This is actually my first business meeting as a staff
7 member, so I'm really excited to be here and have the
8 privilege of covering this particular chapter.

9 This chapter looks and builds upon the 2023 IEPR,
10 which was the first time we looked at hydrogen. In
11 particular, this year, we're looking at eight additional
12 ways to produce hydrogen, as well as the impacts of storage
13 on hydrogen projection. In particular, this chapter covers
14 sort of the seasonality needs, especially in the electric
15 sector, that will be needed for hydrogen production and the
16 impacts of resources needed if we have very minimal storage
17 in those scenarios.

18 I will turn it now over to Sandra.

19 MS. NAKAGAWA: All righty, next slide.

20 In terms of benefits to Californians, the 2025
21 IEPR provides data-driven analysis that drives decision
22 making not just here, but across state energy policy
23 landscape. It's also a public forum for policy development
24 through workshops and input on the report. We also bring
25 together partners and thought leaders across state

1 government, industry, academia to convene and help advance
2 energy policy.

3 Next slide.

4 Our staff recommendation is that the Commission
5 approved the adoption of the 2025 IEPR, and likewise
6 approved the determination that the adoption is exempt from
7 the California Environmental Quality Act, also known as
8 CEQA.

9 That concludes my presentation.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks, Sandra, and
11 thanks to the whole team. I really appreciate your
12 presentations.

13 Moving over to public comment on this item.

14 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Commissioner.

15 The Commission now welcomes public comment on
16 Item 5. Please use the QR code in the back or approach the
17 podium if you'd like to make a public comment. And if
18 you're in the room, if you're on Zoom, please use the
19 raise-hand feature. I'll give that just a few seconds.

20 Seeing none, Commissioner, back to you.

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Thanks, Ryan.

22 Commissioner discussion. Anyone volunteer to go
23 first? Commissioner Skinner.

24 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Thank you. Sandra, thank
25 you for your presentation and the other staff that

1 participated. This is one of the most important documents
2 that the Commission produces. And there's a lot of work
3 that goes into it, a lot of analysis, and it will help
4 guide many decisions by a lot of different agencies. So I
5 really both respect the staff who do this work and
6 appreciate the time and thoughtfulness that you put into
7 it, and the data points that you also, you know, review and
8 look at in order to inform it. So I appreciate it a great
9 deal. And thank you for the work and for the presentation.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Commissioner Gallardo?

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, I, too, want to
12 thank you, Sandra and team, and acknowledge how much work
13 this is, especially because you're already moving on the
14 2026 IEPR. So doing two things at once is impressive and
15 really appreciate that.

16 I don't have any questions here, just wanted to
17 make sure I shared the gratitude.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Well, thanks to you
19 both.

20 Chair Hochschild, any comment on this item?

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: No, just thank you to the team
22 for all the work. Thanks.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks.

24 I just have a couple of comments and I wanted to
25 just point out that, you know, I agree completely with

1 Commissioner Skinner, this is how important IEPR is. It's
2 really sort of the foundational document for planning in
3 the state around energy. And we both do the statutorily
4 required stuff like the forecast, which we adopted back in
5 February, and then other items as they come up as a
6 legislature asks us to do different things. And then,
7 also, just topical issues of importance that we want to
8 focus on and really do a deep dive on.

9 And the IEPR Team, I guess this is more for the
10 public, but the IEPR Team has expertise in convening all of
11 these, you know, sort of about the issues themselves, but
12 also in reaching across the whole Commission and our
13 partner agencies to tap into the expertise that's needed to
14 really dig into any given item. So that is a lot of work
15 and just the convenings and the coordination, the
16 logistics, just of doing the enterprise, but then also the
17 subject matter, pulling it all together and putting
18 together a cogent document. So just really appreciate you
19 and the team, Sandra.

20 I do want to just talk a little bit about the
21 load shift goal and just, I think, let everyone know that
22 there is a lot of work going on in this realm. And almost
23 every division and the Commission has a piece of load
24 shift, you know, Fuel and Transportation, the Reliability
25 and Assessments Division and the RREDI Division runs

1 programs that are really aiming at pushing the technology
2 out there and making sure load flexibility can permeate.
3 Of course, the Efficiency Division, which does load
4 management standards and flexible demand appliances and the
5 building standards.

6 So there are a few areas where the solutions just
7 have not been there at scale. And California really is
8 leading. Like we established this, you know, big hairy
9 goal and, you know, the progress toward it, you know, by
10 2030 doesn't look great at the moment. But I think that
11 the nature of our leadership there is we're really trying
12 to put together the pieces of this puzzle in a way that's
13 going to scale. And, you know, it's impossible to say
14 exactly when or exactly how that happens.

15 But I think, you know, on the one hand, there are
16 really three kind of areas, the tools and infrastructure,
17 and this is things like interoperability, like hardware
18 that has to go out there. It's the comms protocols and
19 things like that that are going to allow load to modulate
20 in real time with grid conditions and, you know, cost,
21 carbon content, signals and things like that. So tools and
22 infrastructure.

23 Rates at the retail level, the PUC is doing a lot
24 of innovative work on that, CalFUSE and other arenas. And,
25 you know, that takes a while to get rate cases done and get

1 the right rates in front of consumers so they can respond,
2 hopefully in an automated way.

3 And then the third one is at the bulk level, the
4 CAISO is doing some work on demand responses, you know,
5 demand flexibility as well, and the DDEMI work that they've
6 been doing, and so the bulk market, the retail market, and
7 then a lot of infrastructure that we need.

8 And so all those pieces have to be there. So I
9 wanted to just riff a little bit on that to give a little
10 more context for that item. And I just commend folks to
11 look at that, that piece of the IEPR.

12 And then I did have one question. So, you know,
13 this is the 2025 IEPR and it's a lot of work and it really
14 goes -- it gets a lot of review, get a lot of different
15 eyes on it. And some of the issues can be tricky and
16 actually things move in real time, and so I wanted to kind
17 of just get a sense of the flow. You know, we're in July
18 and it's a 2025 IEPR, and the 2026 IEPR is already, you
19 know, well down the road. So yes, so, you know, it's all
20 sort of a permanent revolution, but maybe you could just
21 describe that a little bit.

22 MS. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, we can talk about that. So
23 we do our staff workshop throughout the year. We wrap
24 these in December, the normal timeline for analysis and
25 stuff before drafting, which are all on track for our

1 normal Q1 adoption. If you recall in past years, typically
2 February or March is when we adopt the IEPR from the
3 previous year, and that's following demand forecast
4 adoption in January. We did see the demand forecast get
5 adopted at this January's business meeting. Unfortunately,
6 we ran into some issues with the review process that kind
7 of drew out our timeline. So our draft came out on April
8 23rd of this year. So making sure that we're able to build
9 enough time for public comment, and then an interagency
10 process to make sure we're hearing from all the voices in
11 the room and incorporating that back, means we're facing a
12 little later timeline this year.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

14 MS. NAKAGAWA: But we're really looking forward
15 to the next year, getting back to the (indiscernible).

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Right on.

17 MS. NAKAGAWA: (Indiscernible) hot summer
18 business meeting --

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Definitely.

20 MS. NAKAGAWA: -- at a business meeting,
21 hopefully, maybe, March.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thanks
23 for that context. And --

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner, can I ask a
25 Sandra a question?

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, go ahead.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Just, Sandra --

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, go ahead, Chair.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: -- Sandra, can you just give
5 us an update on the work you're doing around the energy
6 trends in California and making that more publicly
7 available? Just, I know --

8 MS. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: -- you've been putting a lot
10 of time into that. That would be really helpful.

11 MS. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, happy to chat about that.
12 So we released something called California's Clean Energy
13 Journey in April of this year. You can check our social
14 media channels and LinkedIn for that. And it really
15 provides a comprehensive overview of what we're doing
16 without using the acronyms and program names that we love
17 here, but instead focusing on what would the average
18 Californian want to know about the energy transition? How
19 many ZEVs are on the road? Where are we on energy
20 efficiency and appliance standards? What does that mean
21 for savings for Californians? So we really encourage folks
22 to check that out.

23 We've been pushing updates to it as they come
24 along. For example, our Clean Renewable Energy presented
25 for 2024 just came out at 67 percent, so we pushed that out

1 yesterday. We're looking for feedback too to hear from the
2 public. What do they want to see and what kind of content
3 should we be building out to further tell the story and put
4 it all in one place? While our website's a wonderful
5 resource, it has hundreds and hundreds of pages to get
6 through. So having that all in one more interactive
7 platform where you have dashboards pulled in, videos,
8 infographics has been a really fun and challenging project
9 for me and all of my colleagues on the media team as well
10 who supported that.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Yeah.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Can you give us a sense of
13 some of the key stats that you're highlighting there, like
14 just walk us through a couple of the headlines first?

15 MS. NAKAGAWA: All right, pop quiz for me today.
16 Okay, yeah, I'm happy to do that. So Clean Energy Days is
17 one of the stats we love to highlight and 77 days, when you
18 cumulatively add those up over the crisis that occurred
19 last year, we had 100 percent clean energy for part of the
20 day. That's a big one, over 2.5 million ZEVs on the road.
21 Actually, I think we're at 2.6 and are going to get an
22 update very soon on that one.

23 One of my favorite ones, too, is the cumulative
24 savings for appliance and building standards of \$200
25 billion since the inception of those standards in the '70s.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

2 MS. NAKAGAWA: And that's really hard to wrap
3 your head around --

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

5 MS. NAKAGAWA: -- \$200 billion. Let's see. I'd
6 say we also have done billions of dollars in research and
7 development funding. And I think we're at over \$165
8 million to tribes for clean energy and climate work. Yeah,
9 those are some of the key ones.

10 I also just encourage folks to check out that
11 story map. It's called California's Clean Energy Journey
12 and you can find it in the CEC homepage as well.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And great visuals on
14 that that people can use.

15 So Commissioner Gallardo, do you have a follow-
16 up?

17 MS. NAKAGAWA: Thank you, Sandra, for sharing
18 that. I think it's a great compliment to the IEPR, which
19 is very dense, and that will be probably easier for folks
20 to get through.

21 I did have a question for the 2025 IEPR. Given
22 that we're approving this later than usual, can you talk
23 about if there's going to be any different type of process
24 for getting it published and distributed, or if that will
25 be the same as before? Just given the tardiness, I didn't

1 know if there was something you were planning.

2 MS. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, for the 2026 IEPR update.

3 MS. NAKAGAWA: The '25 one.

4 MS. NAKAGAWA: Oh, yeah, I think we are just
5 going to continue to look at ways we can be more efficient
6 and give a heads-up. One thing we looked at doing this
7 year and implemented was contacting our interagency
8 partners ahead of time saying, look, we've got the IEPR.
9 We're looking at this type of review time. Please let us
10 know if you're going to need more and what your priorities
11 are right now. And then just getting on the phone with
12 them to be able to work out any differences of opinion when
13 we need to have a little deeper conversation.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, but this will still
15 be shared with the governor's office, legislature? It will
16 be on our website and all that good stuff? Okay. Thank
17 you.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Great. No more
19 questions. Do I have a motion? Anybody want to give a
20 motion to adopt Item 5?

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 5.

22 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Second. All right. All
23 those in favor.

24 Commissioner Gallardo?

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

2 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Chair Hochschild?

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.

6 And we this item is adopted 4-0.

7 Thanks, Sandra. Thanks team. Really appreciate
8 it. Great work.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, move on. Moving
10 on to Item 6, Regents of the University of California, on
11 Behalf of the Irvine Campus. I welcome Alejandra Rios to
12 present.

13 Alejandra?

14 MS. RIOS: Hi, good afternoon. Can you hear me?
15 There you go. Hi, good afternoon, Chair and Commissioners.
16 My name is Alejandra Rios and I'm an Electric Generation
17 System Specialist in the Energy Research and Development
18 Division under the Renewable Integration Unit.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to present to you
20 Item 6, which is titled the Regents of the University of
21 California, on Behalf of the Irvine Campus. We are seeking
22 approval for an agreement selected through a competitive
23 funding opportunity under EPIC-IV focused on improving net
24 load forecasting for using data from behind the media
25 resources.

1 Next slide, please.

2 So just to give you a little bit of background,
3 California is going on the path towards 100 percent clean
4 electricity by 2045. And as part of this transition, more
5 Californians are installing their own clean energy
6 technologies, such as rooftop solar, home batteries and
7 electric vehicles. When these systems sit on the customer
8 side of the utility meter, we refer to them as behind-the-
9 meter, or BTM, resources. And these technologies bring
10 major benefits. They help the customers lower their bills,
11 reduce the strain on the grid during peak hours and can
12 strengthen community resilience during emergencies.

13 But with growth, it also presents some
14 challenges. And grid operators like CAISO can directly
15 observe what these resources are doing. And in effect,
16 more and more of these systems become invisible, making it
17 harder to accurately predict the state's electricity needs.

18 And these behind-the-meter resources don't just
19 affect how much electricity the grid needs, but also when
20 it's needed. So just to give you an example, batteries can
21 charge and discharge at different times. And also electric
22 vehicle charging patterns are further complexity to the
23 system. And because of this, accurate forecasting matters
24 more than ever. Even small errors can make it harder to
25 keep the grid balance and it can increase costs for

1 everybody.

2 Next slide, please.

3 So the goal of the funding opportunity that we
4 put out was to improve the tools that are used to forecast
5 behind-the-meter resources so CAISO and utilities can
6 better plan their generation reserves, capacity, and real-
7 time operations. These improvements can support a more
8 reliable, efficient, clean and cost-effective energy system
9 for all Californians.

10 The projects funded under this solicitation aim
11 to strengthen existing models or introduce new modeling
12 approaches, build an architecture for better data
13 incorporation, as well as collaboration with a broad set of
14 interested parties because we want to make sure that the
15 resulting tools from this project can be useful and
16 accessible.

17 Next slide, please.

18 So with that, I would like to introduce you our
19 awardee, the University of California, Irvine and their
20 project called Project SIGNAL, which stands for
21 Socioeconomic Geographic Intelligence for Grid Netload
22 Analytics and Learning.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We love a good acronym.

24 MS. RIOS: Yeah. And the purpose of this
25 agreement is the development for the advance of net load

1 forecasting models that can explicitly predict behind-the-
2 meter distributed energy resources behavior with the focus
3 of improving short-term forecasting accuracy under high
4 variability events, such as weather events and wildfires.
5 And this will help grid operators to efficiently improve
6 California's grid resiliency and flexibility and deliver
7 also significant cost savings for ratepayers through
8 enhanced load shifting and demand responses. The funding
9 for this particular project is proposed for \$3 million for
10 the next four years.

11 Next slide, please.

12 And just to give you a very brief overview of
13 their project approach, the team will be creating a
14 standardized data workflow. So currently behind-the-meter
15 resources data comes from different places as well as in
16 many different formats, which makes it very difficult for
17 them to be utilized in various models. So the team will
18 build this simple consistent system for gathering and
19 preparing this data so it can go straight into forecasting
20 tools.

21 Second, they will be developing a forecasting
22 model themselves. The model will be using modern
23 techniques such as machine learning and methods inspired by
24 large language models to understand how behind-the-meter
25 resources behave.

1 The model will also look at community-level
2 factors such as where people live and how they typically
3 use energy to make more accurate predictions. And the
4 forecast will be also looking at a few minutes ahead to the
5 next day.

6 And finally, they will be conducting a
7 comprehensive validation and demonstration of their model
8 by testing it in a field through a community demonstration
9 at Laguna Woods Village, as well as testing their model at
10 substations and real world grid operations alongside with
11 CAISO.

12 Next slide, please.

13 I would also like to really highlight the team
14 for this project. The project is supported by a strong
15 group of collaborators. This team includes researchers and
16 industry partners. We have University of California,
17 Irvine, the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, as well as UC
18 San Diego Derapi Incorporated. Together, they will bring a
19 mix of technical expertise and real-world experience.

20 In addition, the project will also be working
21 with major utilities such as Southern California Edison,
22 SDG&E, as well as LADWP, which will be providing customer-
23 level energy data of the region. And the team will be
24 partnering, as previously mentioned, with Laguna Woods
25 Village to test and validate their forecasting tool at a

1 community scale.

2 Next slide, please.

3 I would like to also highlight the benefits to
4 California rate payers. The project will be able to
5 support affordability. With more accurate forecasts,
6 utilities and CAISO can plan ahead with greater confidence,
7 which reduces the need for expensive backup resources and
8 emergency actions.

9 The project will also strengthen grid reliability
10 since grid operators will have a much clearer picture of
11 what's happening in the system, especially during heat
12 waves, wildfire smoke events, or any situations where
13 conditions can change quickly.

14 And finally, the project will also support
15 environmental sustainability. With more accurate
16 forecasts, it makes it easier to use, fully use clean
17 distributed energy resources. And when operators can
18 better predict these resources and how they behave, they
19 will rely less on that fossil fuel backup and integrate
20 more of that renewable energy into the grid.

21 Next slide, please.

22 The staff recommends the approval of this grant
23 agreement, as well as their determination that the project
24 is exempt from CEQA.

25 And this concludes my presentation for Item 6.

1 I'm happy to take any questions.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks so much,
3 Alejandra. Why don't you stick around for a minute while
4 we do the public comment?

5 Ryan?

6 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Commissioner.

7 The CEC now welcomes public comment on Item 6.
8 Please approach the podium if you're in the room and you'd
9 like to make a comment. And if you're on Zoom, please use
10 the raise-hand feature.

11 I'm first going to recognize Stephen Rosenblum.
12 Stephen, I'm going to unmute your line. Please state and
13 spell your affiliation and we welcome your comments.

14 MR. ROSENBLUM: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
15 My name is Stephen Rosenblum, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, last name
16 R-O-S-E-N-B-L-U-M.

17 I really appreciate the work of the Commission in
18 helping California get to its 2045 net-zero goals, which
19 involved the electrification of everything. And your
20 middle name is electricity, which is really the key.

21 This project is really an excellent example of
22 what's needed to help electrify everything, particularly
23 because behind-the-meter resources and the generic
24 distributed energy resources offer a lot of stability to
25 the grid without increasing costs to rate payers and

1 without requiring the stringing of new wires because the
2 load and the source are close to each other.

3 And as a result of that, it also provides
4 emergency backup, which is really critical in times of
5 emergency, as we, you know, we heard about the programs
6 that the state supports in providing emergency backup. I
7 think if the backup is exactly where it's needed, close to
8 a city or a town or a hospital or a police station, I think
9 it's much more valuable than something that's even 100
10 miles away, which the wires can be threatened and it's not
11 there. It's not a problem.

12 And the other issue, I think, which I urge the
13 Commission to pursue is to try to facilitate bidirectional
14 charging for EVs. We now have over a million EVs in
15 California. And if they were able to feed electricity back
16 to the grid in times of demand, high demand or peak load,
17 it would really alleviate a lot of stress on the grid. And
18 it's something that I think the Commission could really
19 help move forward by taking actions to ask for more
20 progress in establishing standards for manufacturers.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments. That
23 concludes public comment for this item.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks for that
25 comment, Mr. Rosenblum. I would just refer you to the

1 Redwoods Project. Maybe you can find that on our website
2 because we're actually looking at bidirectional charging in
3 a lot of different ways and have funded quite a bit of
4 research on that, so it's very exciting. And thanks for
5 highlighting that and bringing that up.

6 Any Commissioner comment, starting with
7 Commissioner Gallardo?

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Commissioner
9 McAllister.

10 So Alejandra, congratulations on this. You did a
11 fantastic presentation. I really enjoyed the briefing you
12 provided as well. And I think this one resonates with me
13 today because I think it would be a good candidate for the
14 SIGNAL Project. I just am getting batteries installed at
15 my house as we speak. I already have solar and I have an
16 EV as well, so check all those boxes.

17 But on that note, I really appreciate the setup
18 of this and all the partners that are involved, including
19 the multiple IOUs and a POU as well. I think that's
20 fantastic. And you also talked to me a little bit about
21 the community that will be participating. I was wondering
22 if you could share a little bit about that community here
23 today?

24 MS. RIOS: Happy to. Yeah, so the community
25 consists of about 18,000 or so residents, mostly from

1 retirees. And so I think it's a really good opportunity
2 both for the research part, but also to be able to, you
3 know, get feedback from that community and see how being
4 able to forecast how their resources are both feeding the
5 grid, but also vice versa, and in the hopes that also with
6 better forecasting, we can see better savings in their
7 electricity bills.

8 So I'm excited to see that demonstration. You
9 know, it's a forecasting model, but just to see it on the
10 ground and see what it can actually do, the improvement in
11 forecasting, I think that's really good for both the
12 community and just (indiscernible) also.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, absolutely. I
14 would love to do a visit, too, and see, you know, how the
15 residents are doing, what they're experiencing.

16 So again, fantastic job to you and the team on
17 this project. I think it will be transformative. And also
18 I like the acronym SIGNAL, because I don't want to have to
19 say the whole thing.

20 MS. RIOS: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: So I thought that was
22 clever. All right. Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

24 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Thanks. You may have
25 mentioned it and I may have not caught it, but in addition

1 to the benefits that you were describing that this project
2 could have, it seems to me it could also be very useful for
3 our IEPR process. And we know that our projections around
4 the value of, say, our distributed energy resources, and
5 those projections are often disputed, the UC Davis,
6 interestingly, the Institute for Transportation Studies
7 recently did a paper that indicates that we may be over
8 projecting in terms of our electrical demand for the
9 electric vehicle transportation. And we're, you know, we
10 are doing -- obviously our staff are doing the best they
11 can in making these projections and using a lot of great
12 data, but additional data of this sort, I'm sure it could
13 be very helpful. So I think it's a great project and thank
14 you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thanks,
16 Commissioner Skinner.

17 Chair Hochschild, any comment on this one, or
18 questions?

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, just to say I was so
20 fortunate to have Alejandra as a science fellow in my
21 office for a year where she did a terrific job and we
22 talked about what she wanted to do and she wanted,
23 fortunate for all of us, to stay at the Energy Commission
24 to work on great projects like this. So I am so glad
25 you've continued on at CEC, Alejandra, and happy to support

1 this. Sounds wonderful. Thanks to you and all your
2 colleagues for the good work.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks. And yeah, now
4 Alejandra, you're doing it. You're on the team. That's
5 great.

6 I want to just throw on my excitement about this
7 project. First of all, we are so lucky to have the UC
8 system and the national labs that we have in the state and
9 just leveraging those is awesome. And Irvine is a partner
10 in a bunch of different things, but I think this is a
11 perfect sort of partnering with them. And then having, you
12 know, the large IOUs and having DWP as a partner, Derapi,
13 who's a really innovative firm that sort of provides a lot
14 of the connective tissue and the data flows. And I think
15 it really looks like a great project.

16 And behavior is one of the big questions about,
17 you know, like we talked about load flex earlier, I mean,
18 that's a big, big issue, is will rates or other ways to
19 influence behavior. And mostly retirees sounds like a
20 really great case to sort of, you know, get real about what
21 people can and -- can and can't do in terms of their energy
22 management sort of in the real time and real world
23 conditions.

24 So, you know, I'm really excited about this. I
25 appreciate the briefing on this and I've been following it.

1 So I'm supportive, also very supportive of this.

2 So do we have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 6.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right. And a
5 second?

6 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Second.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second, Commissioner
8 Skinner. All those in favor?

9 Commissioner Gallardo?

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

12 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Chair Hochschild?

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.

16 So this item passes four to zero. Thanks very much,
17 Alejandra.

18 Okay, moving on to Item 7, California Training
19 for Residential Energy Contractors, the California TREC.
20 Excited about this item. Long time coming.

21 MS. BECK: Hello.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Welcome Amber Beck.

23 Sorry, I needed to call you. Thanks.

24 MS. BECK: I'm Amber Beck with the Federal
25 Incentives and Financing Branch in the Reliability,

1 Renewable Energy & Decarbonization Incentives Division,
2 known as RREDI. I'm here today to present for your
3 approval four grant awards under the Federal Training for
4 Residential Energy Contractors Program, or CA-TREC, in
5 California. CA-TREC provides funding for training to
6 establish programs that support upgrading the energy
7 performance of buildings. Combined, the four proposed
8 recipients support trainees throughout California and reach
9 from the Oregon border to San Diego.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The state has ambitious goals to upgrade home and
12 aging equipment with the new energy efficient technologies.
13 The CA-TREC program represents a major opportunity to
14 develop a trained workforce, which is needed for long-term
15 market transformation. The program prepares Californians
16 for high-road careers in construction and the skilled
17 trades. These careers offer family supporting wages,
18 benefits, structured training and opportunities for
19 advancement at a time when demand for those positions is
20 growing. The funding will expand and strengthen existing
21 programs, ensuring Californians have access to well-
22 equipped, well-coordinated training centers.

23 Finally, the funds make training more accessible
24 for Californians who face financial and practical barriers
25 to entering the trades by helping cover costs such as

1 childcare, transportation, tools, equipment, certification
2 fees and technology, the program enables more people to
3 complete training, enter high-road careers, and build the
4 skilled workforce needed.

5 Next slide, please.

6 Funding is broken into three project groups.
7 Group 1, the pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship group's
8 goal, is to reduce the cost of training to pre-
9 apprenticeship, apprenticeship and vocational school
10 programs. Group 2, the workforce enablement group's goal,
11 is to remove financial and practical barriers that can
12 prevent individuals from entering or completing existing
13 residential training programs, helping more Californians
14 successfully transition into high-road careers. Group 3,
15 the new and expanding contractor training group's goal, is
16 to increase the accessibility of residential efficiency and
17 electrification contractor training programs.

18 Next slide, please.

19 The first grant is for Group 1, the pre-
20 apprenticeship and apprenticeship group. The State
21 Building and Construction Trade Council will use the \$5
22 million CA-TREC grant to expand the California Residential
23 Energy Advanced Technology Education, or CREATE,
24 initiative. By expanding apprenticeship opportunities,
25 this grant will prepare workers for high-road careers while

1 helping meet California's growing demand for residential
2 energy efficiency and electrification projects.

3 Highlights of how CA-TREC funding will be used
4 include training about 1,600 apprentices statewide in
5 residential energy efficiency construction over four
6 cohorts, reimbursing the Joint Apprenticeship Training
7 Committee, or JATC's, \$2,500 per apprentice per semester of
8 qualifying training, and developing a statewide feasibility
9 report on establishing a residential electrification and
10 energy efficiency certification for California.

11 Next slide, please.

12 The second grant is for Group 2, the Workforce
13 Enablement Group. The Los Angeles Trade Technical College,
14 a California community college, will use the \$1.5 million
15 dollar CA-TREC grant for their Workforce Enablement Program
16 for residential clean energy that is embedded in their
17 construction, maintenance and utilities pathway.

18 Highlights of how CA-TREC funding will be used
19 include supporting about 300 students over two years who
20 are enrolled in the college's clean energy programs. The
21 support of up to \$1,800 per student includes funding for
22 required personal protective equipment, certification fees,
23 transportation assistance, work readiness supplies,
24 technology access and child care. Together, these support
25 services improve completion rates and help students move

1 into stable high-road employment.

2 Students will receive individualized counseling
3 and employment plans. And the grant supports students in
4 job search, placement, and early retention through
5 coordinated services.

6 Next slide, please.

7 The next grant is also for Group 2, the workforce
8 enablement group. The State Building and Construction
9 Trades Council will use the \$1.5 million CA-TREC grant to
10 expand the California Residential Energy Services
11 Supporting Training or CREST initiative.

12 Highlights of how CA-TREC will be used include
13 supporting more than 600 apprentices statewide across four
14 cohorts with stipends for child care and personal safety
15 tools. These stipends reduce financial barriers that can
16 otherwise prevent apprentices from completing training.
17 Funds will be distributed through Local Joint
18 Apprenticeship Committees, or JATCs. They will enroll
19 income-qualified apprentices and conduct contractor surveys
20 to measure the effectiveness of their training.

21 Next slide, please.

22 The final grant is for Group 3, the new and
23 expanding contractor training group. The Western States
24 Council of SMART will use the nearly \$1.3 million CA-TREC
25 grant to build on their established network of Joint

1 Apprenticeships Training Committees, or JATCs, and aims to
2 create a technician to contractor pipeline.

3 Highlights of how CA-TREC funding will be used
4 include funding for six training centers to purchase and
5 install training equipment, update a curriculum, and expand
6 residential HVAC teaching capacity. They also plan to
7 increase contractor availability statewide to meet growing
8 consumer demand for services and ensure high quality code-
9 compliant installations. This investment creates a clear
10 career pathway from technician to licensed contractor. It
11 expands the opportunities for career growth and business
12 ownership. The grant supports up to 10 technicians
13 obtaining new contractor licenses.

14 Next slide, please.

15 As noted before, the CA-TREC grants will help
16 build the skilled workforce needed for long-term market
17 transformation while reducing barriers that prevent
18 Californians from accessing training and high-road career
19 in the energy economy. With that in mind, we recommend
20 approval of these four grants and adoption of staff's
21 finding that the agreement with the Western States Council
22 of SMART Agreement FED-26-004 has projects that are exempt
23 from CEQA.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks very much,

1 Amber.

2 Ryan, any public comment?

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Do we have some?

5 Great.

6 MR. YOUNG: The CEC now welcomes public comment
7 on Item 7. If you're in the room and you'd like to make a
8 comment, please use the QR code posted in the back or visit
9 the Public Advisor table. And if you are on Zoom, please
10 use the raise-hand feature, or star nine if you're on the
11 phone.

12 I'd like to first welcome Mark Mulliner. Please
13 approach the podium, state your affiliation. And then
14 next, we'll hear from Christopher Ruch. Welcome.

15 MR. MULLINER: Good afternoon. Thank you. My
16 name is Mark Mulliner. I'm here to represent the State
17 Building and Construction Trades Council. We represent
18 450,000 members here in California, 72,000 of which are
19 apprentices. We currently have around 90 percent of the
20 state of registered apprentices in the whole state.

21 So we're here to speak and request respectfully
22 that you would support the grant for the CREATE and for
23 CREST. The CREATE grant is three of our affiliates, the
24 sheet metal, the IBEW and the UA. I am a 34-year UA
25 member, steamfitter welder, and I got in the trade because

1 of the clean fuels.

2 So California has been carrying the torch for
3 environmental improvement since I got in the trade 34 years
4 ago. I have a 35-year-old son that's an IBEW journeyman.
5 Because of the energy transition, he was able to get in the
6 IBW. I have a 29-year-old daughter that's in the UA.
7 She's a detailer in Roseville. She turned out two years
8 ago and she, too, got in because of the transition that's
9 going on in California. And I have a 22-year-old daughter
10 that's in UA 342 in the Bay Area and she started in the
11 same refinery that I had started in and she is looking to
12 get in the apprenticeship program.

13 And I just want to make this personal for me and
14 for our affiliates and our trades. My 29-year-old daughter
15 had a beautiful little girl eight months ago. Her weekly
16 daycare is \$800 a week. She has to be in Roseville at 7:00
17 a.m. And she wasn't able to participate in any of these
18 types of ERiCA grants and stuff. But there's a hope for my
19 22 year old, you know, going forward and it's personal.
20 It's making a difference in people's lives.

21 So what you're doing and the reason why I wanted
22 to be able to say this to you is the decisions you're
23 making by giving these grants out to the union building
24 trades, we lead the industry. Our affiliates lead the
25 industry in training. We are moving into the residential

1 space. We have been there for many years but we are
2 improving everything we do and it's because of grants like
3 this, so thank you very much.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

5 After Christopher Rush, we're going to hear from
6 Curtis Notsinneh.

7 Christopher, welcome. Please state and spell
8 your name for the record and state your affiliation and
9 welcome.

10 MR. RUCH: Sure. Good afternoon Commissioners.
11 My name is Christopher Ruch, that's R-U-C-H, representing
12 Smart Local 104 and a member of the Western States Council
13 of Sheet Metal Workers.

14 I strongly support approval of Item 7, the CA-
15 TREC grant, specifically speaking on 7a, c and d.
16 California has a well-documented challenge. Too many
17 residential heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are not
18 installed correctly. This prevents systems from delivering
19 their intended energy savings, indoor air quality, comfort
20 and reliability. Rather than continuing to place band-aids
21 on this problem, the CA-TREC

22 grant addresses the root cause by strengthening
23 proven straight state-accredited apprenticeship training
24 programs that prepare technicians to install and commission
25 heat pumps correctly, ensuring California's clean energy

1 investments deliver their intended results.

2 The grant also strengthens these existing
3 apprenticeship programs so trainees learn the latest heat
4 pump technologies, controls, commissioning practices and
5 installation standards. This means more systems will be
6 installed correctly the first time, perform to their design
7 intent and help California achieve its energy efficiency,
8 indoor air quality, thermal health and decarbonization
9 goals.

10 At the same time, and this is very important, the
11 grant creates family-sustaining careers with benefits for
12 all members of our communities, ensuring California's clean
13 energy transition is also a just transition.

14 Approving CA-TREC is not simply investing in 6
15 million heat pumps. It's investing in 6 million properly
16 functioning heat pumps that achieve their design intent for
17 California families, while building a skilled and trained
18 workforce that will then serve California's communities for
19 decades to come.

20 Thank you, and I respectfully ask your support
21 for number seven.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

23 After Curtis Notsinneh, we're going to recognize
24 Mike Mendoza.

25 Curtis, I hope I pronounced your name correctly.

1 MR. NOTSINNEH: Yes, you did. Thank you.

2 Curtis --

3 MR. YOUNG: Welcome.

4 MR. NOTSINNEH: Curtis Notsinneh, Strategy
5 Workplace Communications. Curtis with a C, last name is
6 N-O-T-S-I-N-N-E-H.

7 Mr. Chair and Commissioners, proud here to be a
8 partner with State Building Trades on CREATE and CREST
9 under the CA-TREC Program. We're supporting training on
10 residential electrification and supportive services to
11 remove barriers through our local JATC partners throughout
12 the state for IBEW electricians, UA plumbers and pipe
13 fitters, and SMART sheet metal workers. This is necessary
14 to meet our ambitious climate goals here in the state and
15 support our employer partner contractors with highly
16 skilled and trained workers who implement these policy
17 goals. This statewide approach to this investment creates
18 both efficiency and consistency in training for the workers
19 and provides family-sustaining wages and benefits that
20 support individuals, families and their communities.

21 We thank the Commissioners and the Commission
22 staff for all of their work that goes into these
23 investments and for the focus here on training and
24 workforce development and on high-road careers for the
25 individuals who are participating in these programs. We're

1 excited to get to work with our partners in the field on
2 implementation.

3 And lastly, we're also happy to add our support
4 to the proposed work of the other CA-TREC awardees, Western
5 Council of SMART, and LA Trade Tech for their work towards
6 these laudable climate goals.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

9 After Mike Mendoza, we'll hear from Alicia
10 Mijares.

11 Mike, please approach the podium. Indicate your
12 affiliation and welcome.

13 MR. MENDOZA: Good afternoon. Mike Mendoza,
14 IBEW, local 684 out of Modesto.

15 Thank you Commissioners for your support of these
16 important investments in California's union apprenticeship
17 programs. By funding advanced residential energy training,
18 as well as providing childcare assistance and essential
19 safety tools for apprentices, you are helping remove
20 barriers to success while strengthening the skilled
21 workforce our state depends on. These investments will
22 create more middle class career opportunities, expand the
23 pipeline of highly trained electricians, plumbers,
24 pipefitters and sheet metal workers and help ensure
25 California's clean energy and housing goals are built

1 safely, efficiently and with the highest level of
2 craftsmanship.

3 Thank you for your continued commitment to
4 skilled training and California's future workforce. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

7 After Alicia, we're going to hear from the
8 Northern California Sheet Metal Apprenticeship.

9 Alicia, welcome. Please indicate your
10 affiliation and welcome.

11 MS. MIJARES: Thank you. Alicia Mijares, Sheet
12 Metal Workers, Local 104, SMART National Union.

13 It is incredibly important that we support a
14 skilled and trained workforce for residential
15 electrification through the support of this grant. Some
16 apprentices don't complete their training because of
17 hurdles such as child care and transportation issues. This
18 grant will help apprentices overcome these hurdles.

19 I'm asking that you support high-road training so
20 that electrification is done properly, is cost effective,
21 and works properly for the end user. Please support
22 funding the training of skilled and trained installers and
23 help them transition into residential contractors through
24 the programs that will be funded by this grant. Let's make
25 the electrification movement a success now and in the

1 future.

2 And for every poorly installed system, you have a
3 resident who is soured on electrification. And I guarantee
4 you that they're going to tell their neighbors, their
5 family members, their friends and their co-workers that
6 electrification just isn't worth the hassle. Let's do it
7 right the first time.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

10 After the Northern California Sheet Metal
11 Apprenticeship, we're going to hear from Alex Tiechner.
12 Welcome. Please state your affiliation.

13 MR. TIECHNER: My name is Alex Tishner, A-L-E-X
14 T-I-E-C-H-N-E-R. I'm with the Northern California Valley
15 Sheet Metal Workers Training Center. I also represent the
16 Modesto Area Sheet Metal Workers Training Center. So thank
17 you for having us today. This is a very important topic.
18 This program will help our organization continue to grow in
19 the residential market.

20 All of our members take pride in doing their work
21 properly. The installation is the most critical piece.
22 We've recently, out of the Sacramento region, joined with
23 ASHRAE. We are the first student chapter for ASHRAE in the
24 country. Building this relationship has strengthened our
25 communication with engineers and manufacturers and getting

1 the students involved early to see what the resources are
2 out there.

3 So through these connections that we've made and
4 talking to the engineers and talking to the manufacturers,
5 they've identified that most of the failed systems or
6 inefficient systems that are out there are due to improper
7 installation. So having qualified technicians do this work
8 is critical to meet these goals.

9 Also, with the residential HVAC market, these
10 systems are becoming more and more sophisticated, so the
11 installation is very critical. So having new technologies
12 in the training programs and having skilled instructors
13 performing the training for everybody is super important.

14 Also, this is going to provide more career
15 opportunities for our workforce. And these careers are
16 high paying. They come with health care. There's going to
17 be a child care element, hopefully. And there's pension
18 plans. So we're setting these people up to live in a
19 sustainable community and provide for their families and
20 everybody else.

21 So thank you for your time.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

23 I'd like to welcome Shane Lee, followed by Jacob
24 Gray.

25 Shane, please approach the podium and state your

1 affiliation and we welcome your comments.

2 MR. LEE: Thank you, Commissioner. My name is
3 Shane Lee. I'm with the Shemale Workers Local 104 Training
4 Center. I am also an instructor at the same training
5 center.

6 So I appreciate this docket on today and for you
7 to approve number seven so -- for funding of this, and the
8 modernization of our apprenticeship training facility. So
9 it will also enhance in the hands-on instruction using
10 equipment and that facilitates in today's industry
11 standards and prepares apprentices to work with energy-
12 efficient HV systems and high performance building
13 technology, so aligning apprenticeship training with
14 California's clean energy and workforce development goals.
15 So we also will increase the skills and competitiveness of
16 our apprentices to meet their employers demands.

17 We also will be creating more opportunities for
18 these apprentices and to earn while they learn with a high
19 quality of their skills. We also want to help them
20 strengthen this pipeline to highly train their safety force
21 sheet metal workers.

22 It supports the construction for a safer, more
23 energy efficient buildings in California. Also to
24 represent and invest in our apprentices for our industry
25 and the future of California's clean energy, which I'll

1 also, I'm just more proud of that California is taking more
2 investment in our workforce, so thank you.

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

4 After Jacob Gray, we're going to look to Zoom.
5 Jacob?

6 All right. I'm going to look to Zoom. I'd like
7 to welcome Dr. Marcia Wilson. I'm going to unmute your
8 line. Dr. Wilson, please unmute on your end and we welcome
9 your comments.

10 DR. WILSON: Thank you so much. My name is Dr.
11 Marcia Wilson, M-A-R-C-I-A, last name Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.

12 Thank you so much Commissioners for taking the
13 time to listen to the public comments this afternoon. I'm
14 speaking today on behalf of the CA-TREC Workforce
15 Enablement Grant, as well as the others. And I'm speaking
16 on behalf of Los Angeles Trade Technical College, where I'm
17 the Dean of Pathway Innovation.

18 LATTC sits in a community with a high energy
19 burden, aging housing stock, and generations of students
20 who want careers in the clean energy economy, but face real
21 barriers to getting there. These barriers include
22 transportation, child care, the cost of tools, and personal
23 safety equipment.

24 Further, there is a need for caring staff to
25 provide clear direction and support so that they can

1 actually complete the training programs, and also provide
2 intensive hands-on assistance to help them find and land a
3 job to launch their careers.

4 This grant doesn't fund curriculum or
5 instruction. It funds the human infrastructure around our
6 students, the career counselors, the mentors, the case
7 managers, who make a student who shows up to learn the
8 construction, maintenance, and utilities trades to make
9 sure that they don't drop out because they couldn't get a
10 ride to campus or afford their gloves or their protective
11 eyewear. This is workforce development and climate policy
12 meeting in the same room. Every student who completes this
13 pathway is someone entering the clean energy workforce that
14 California needs to meet its own energy goals and someone
15 whose life and whose family life changes because of it.

16 I respectfully urge the Commission to approve the
17 grants in all three groups and thank you for your time and
18 for investing in Los Angeles students and trainees. Thank
19 you for your time.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Dr. Wilson.

21 After Dean Lee, we're going to hear from Jeremy
22 Zeedyk. I do hope I pronounced your name correctly.

23 Dean, I'm going to unmute your line. Please
24 unmute on your end. State and spell your name for the
25 record and we appreciate your public comments.

1 MR. LEE: Hello, my name is Dean Lee, D-E-A-N
2 L-E-E. Good afternoon, CEC staff and board. Dean Lee with
3 SMART Local 206 representing the workers in San Diego and
4 Imperial County for the sheet metal industry and the
5 training center here.

6 I want to open by generally thanking you, the
7 staff who has built this program with care, and the board
8 for putting the workforce equality at the center of
9 California's clean energy agenda. This work matters and it
10 shows.

11 I am here in strong support of Item 7, especially
12 7a, 7c and d. Item 7 makes me think of someone like Maria,
13 a single mom in Southeastern San Diego who qualifies for an
14 apprenticeship program. She has the drive, but she doesn't
15 have the gas. It costs her \$60.00 a week. That's her
16 barrier, not her talent or not her willingness to get to
17 work. It's the cost to show up that's holding her back.
18 Item 7c changes that. It gives gas vouchers, child care
19 stipends, and tools that you need on day one. These aren't
20 perks. These are the bridge that between the person who
21 wants a career and the person who can actually build a
22 career.

23 Item 7a and 7d expand that opportunity even
24 further, funding almost 60 JATCs statewide and expanding
25 heat pump electrification training directly in Southern

1 California. San Diego and Imperial County carry some of
2 the highest energy burdens in the state. This investment
3 creates local contractors and local jobs and opens the door
4 for people like Maria.

5 High-road jobs, good wages, benefits and a
6 future, they are not out of reach, but right now the road
7 to them has too many tolls. This grant removes them.

8 Commissioners, Maria's counting on you. I urge
9 you to vote yes on item 7. Thank you.

10 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

11 After Jeremy, we're going to hear from Eric
12 Priest.

13 Jeremy, I'm going to unmute your line. Please
14 unmute on your end and we welcome your comments.

15 MR. ZEEDYK: Good afternoon, Chair, Commissioners
16 and staff. My name is Jeremy Zeedyk, Jeremy, J-E-R-E-M-Y
17 Zeedyk, Z-E-E-D-Y-K, and I serve as the Special Projects
18 Coordinator for the Western States Council of Sheet Metal
19 Workers. If approved today, I will have the privilege of
20 serving as a Special Project Coordinator for group three of
21 this initiative.

22 On behalf of our organization and our joint
23 apprentice training centers across California, I want to
24 thank you for considering this award. I also want to
25 recognize the outstanding work of the staff in the RREDI

1 Division throughout this process. I'd especially like to
2 thank Amber Beck for her professionalism, responsiveness
3 and guidance as we work through the pre-award phase.

4 This project represents an important opportunity
5 for the California Energy Commission to partner directly
6 with the building trades to expand residential workforce
7 training and contractor development. Our goal is not
8 simply to train more people, we will, it's to develop the
9 next generation of highly skilled and trained residential
10 contractors who can deliver safe, code-compliant, high-
11 quality heat pump installations that perform as intended
12 and help California meet its ambitious energy goals.

13 Through this project, we will expand our hands-on
14 training, modernize residential training equipment at
15 apprenticeship training centers across the state, and
16 create new contractor development pathways that will help
17 experienced technicians become licensed residential
18 contractors. By investing in the people who install these
19 technologies, the California Energy Commission is helping
20 ensure that California's electrification investments
21 deliver the performance, energy savings and consumer
22 confidence they are intended to achieve.

23 We are honored by the opportunity to partner with
24 the Commission on this effort and appreciate the confidence
25 that the staff has placed in our organization. We look

1 forward to delivering meaningful results for California's
2 workforce, contractors and communities. Thank you again
3 for your consideration and I urge adoption.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

5 We're going to recognize Eric Priest. Eric,
6 please unmute on your end and we welcome your comments.

7 MR. PRIEST: Hi there. My name is Eric Priest.
8 I'm the Training Coordinator Administrator for the Fresno
9 Sheet Metal Training Center's Smart Local 104-D2 Fresno and
10 I strongly recommend approval of this grant. Thank you
11 Commissioners for taking the time to hear us out.

12 In the Fresno area, the housing shortage is
13 evident. And with the new mega housing projects that are
14 being debated currently, more residential housing in our
15 area is inevitable. There's no question or debate about
16 that. With 48,000 new homes being proposed in just one
17 area of Fresno, the need for skilled and trained
18 technicians has never been greater.

19 Electrification training and energy efficiency
20 education being the focal point in our curriculum at our
21 training center for the future, the California Residential
22 Energy Advanced Technology Education Initiative funding
23 will be the catalyst to help us keep up with the latest
24 technology, not only to educate our technicians, but also
25 our installers and our contractors as well. This would set

1 us up for proper installation and maintenance of the
2 residential heat pumps that will be installed properly in
3 these homes so that the units will function properly to
4 meet engineering design, reduced emissions, and reduce
5 unnecessary power usage.

6 I strongly recommend that we approve this today.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

9 Commissioner McAllister, that concludes public
10 comment for Item 7. Back to you.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thanks,
12 Ryan. And I can't tell you how much I appreciate all those
13 comments.

14 And this solicitation, I guess I'm going to take
15 prerogative since I'm Lead Commissioner on this stuff,
16 but -- and with everybody, I'll have a chance to comment
17 and I'll save some comments for the end here. But I just
18 want to acknowledge that this is federally funded; right?
19 This is coming from the IRA, which now is a number of years
20 ago. And, you know, there's been some process hiccups
21 along the way, but those funds are still flowing. And, you
22 know, I think there's alignment here where, you know, a lot
23 of places we've kind of lost that. And here's an area
24 where workforce development and economic growth and just
25 local economic development is really still everyone's

1 priority.

2 And the partnership with labor is fundamental to
3 success here. Many of you said that. And I'll get into a
4 little more detail toward the end here. But I just wanted
5 to say thanks to all the commenters, really. And a lot of
6 this is your work helping shape the details, right, and why
7 the thing was framed, why the solicitation was framed as it
8 was, and why we're asking for the kinds of services that it
9 did; right? So this really has been a joint kind of
10 dialogue for quite a while. And I just really want to
11 appreciate all the speakers and all the folks behind the
12 folks who commented because there's a whole team behind
13 that.

14 And then thanks to Amber and there's a whole team
15 behind you as well. So just want to really highlight that
16 partnership.

17 And then any comments from my colleagues? Okay,
18 Commissioner Gallardo.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, so I will talk a
20 bit here because I'm really excited about this. I'll just
21 say bravo, fully supportive.

22 And Amber, that was a fantastic presentation. I
23 really enjoyed seeing the photos of real people, including
24 Energy Commission staff when we went on a site visit into
25 the IBEW that the State Building and Construction Trades

1 Council of California helped us set up and our lead on
2 workforce, Sara Miles too, and so that was really impactful
3 to see that.

4 And then also there's a photo of a group of
5 women. And I think this is the Los Angeles Trade Tech
6 College just showing how much interest there is. It's not
7 just about men. Everyone wants to participate. And I
8 think removing these barriers by providing the type of
9 wraparound support, which includes childcare, job search,
10 placement, safety tools, like all of it is just so
11 important. And I think it may seem small, it may seem
12 common sense, but it is innovative and transformative. So
13 really excited about that.

14 I wanted to direct myself to Mark.
15 Congratulations on the success of your kids and for the
16 legacy that you're creating. I think it's wonderful. And
17 also really appreciate that you shared your personal story
18 and what type of impact it has made for you and your family
19 that helps us better understand what type of impact we can
20 make with these funds, so thank you for that.

21 Christopher and Alicia, thanks for emphasizing
22 also the importance of installing the things correctly the
23 first time and how much that changes what the outcomes will
24 be in terms of folks being happy with what they're getting
25 and getting the benefits and being able to tell that story

1 with other folks too. I think that's incredibly important.

2 And Curtis, I heard that you have state expertise
3 that you're bringing to the table. So really appreciate
4 that you're involved and that you're supporting.

5 And Mike, Alex, Shane, Jeremy, and Eric, really
6 appreciate the enthusiasm you shared for clean energy. I
7 think, you know, that gives us more hope and confidence
8 about all the work that we're doing, too, that you're
9 contributing to getting to our 100 percent clean energy
10 future, and the emphasis on the fact that these are not
11 just jobs, these are careers that can be life-changing and
12 giving access for folks to be able to afford homes and do
13 all the things that they want to do for their families.

14 And to Dr. Wilson and to Dean, just really
15 appreciate that emphasis on how this is supporting a human
16 infrastructure. And it's not about funding perks. These
17 are necessities. So I think those comments were really
18 helpful. And again, I'm really excited about this.

19 And then I also want to invite Sara Miles to the
20 podium to share some of her thoughts on this program
21 because she's been instrumental to us as she's come in as
22 our workforce expert and really helped guide the Energy
23 Commission as a whole on what we're doing here and to do
24 things better. We definitely had the commitment and the
25 enthusiasm, but wanted to do things correctly. And so

1 you're helping us out a lot, Sara, but please, if you have
2 any thoughts?

3 MS. MILES: Oh, yes, thank you so much,
4 Commissioner. I just have a couple of points I want to
5 make really about high-road jobs in California and big
6 picture, mercifully, our speaker spoke from the heart of
7 their experience on the day-to-day family picture.

8 The big picture is the grants funded to the
9 unions for this project will result in a five-time return
10 on investment to the state. Journeymen make a lot of money
11 and people who make the nice income pay in taxes. And so
12 they'll be paying back into the coffers that can help our
13 Commission and the rest of the state agencies really focus
14 on building out energy efficiency and electrification
15 models throughout the state. So I think that's incredible.

16 Another important piece to note, funding like
17 this is really, really important for the Joint
18 Apprenticeship Training Committees. The workers pay into
19 trust funds that pay for the apprentices. They pay for the
20 people coming up behind them. It's the most valuable model
21 for workforce development. It's the international gold
22 standard. But those funds can't pay for everything. So
23 these pieces, the pieces that the state can fund,
24 especially with supportive services, that a lot of times
25 the trust funds are legally not allowed to pay for, is

1 really important to help them bridge that gap, grow in the
2 areas that they need to, help the populations that they
3 want to enter this realm.

4 The phrase, was it you, Dean in San Diego, who
5 said, you know, they've got the drive, but not the gas?
6 That's written down. I'm going to be using it.

7 So I really want to thank you for this and giving
8 this group this opportunity. LA Trade Tech is a fantastic
9 college who does incredible work. I'm so excited that
10 they're party to this program as well. But this is the
11 first time that we're funding the trades directly to my
12 research. And so I think this is an incredible investment
13 that we're making in California's workforce.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thanks, Sara. Yeah,
16 that's really helpful to hear your perspective.

17 And I also want to give gratitude to Deana and
18 her leadership, and Amber, you and the rest of the team.
19 And also Commissioner McAllister, is this a program you're
20 overseeing? Yeah, so fantastic. Thank you for doing this.

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

22 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Thank you. I won't --
23 Commissioner Gallardo, those were excellent remarks I echo.

24 I would add, as many of the speakers referenced,
25 this is -- we have a shortage in this workforce. So this

1 addresses that shortage in addition to providing this
2 excellent training that is -- that fills then our objective
3 of trying to have all of the buildings built in our state
4 meet our really excellent codes and deliver those kind of
5 comfort and energy savings benefits to the occupants,
6 whether they are in residential occupancy or even it's
7 commercial.

8 So I do really love this project also and really
9 love that we are providing, at least in one case, the type
10 of extra support that some participants need. Because,
11 hey, you know, child care is a real cost and we have, not
12 just in the Commission but I know in the state capital, in
13 different efforts like this, the legislature has tried to
14 accommodate adding stipends for these types of costs. And
15 I'm really glad that we did too, so thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you,
17 Commissioner.

18 Chair Hochschild, did you want to make any
19 comments on this item?

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: No comments except to say
21 kudos to all. And Commissioner McAllister, I really
22 appreciate you recognizing that this was part of the IRA.
23 And while much of that got dialed back, a lot of those
24 things are getting over the finish line, including programs
25 like this. So really grateful for that as well.

1 And especially want to thank Sara Miles for her
2 terrific work on all these issues for a long time, but
3 happy to support.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you. And
5 so I have a few additional comments I want to make and just
6 about, well, about the work and also just the broader
7 context.

8 So, you know, I mean, I would point out, that's
9 why I totally agree with Commissioner Gallardo's comments,
10 about the need for diversity and just really enabling
11 across, you know, a workforce that reflects California's
12 diversity, which is the most diverse economy in the world.

13 But I also want to point out that I've come to
14 appreciate that the labor community is already incredibly
15 diverse and just the skillset and the reflect -- it
16 already, you know, does -- it will get us to that end goal,
17 but we can always do better. And I agree, this is sort of
18 a long time coming and overdue for the Commission to be
19 funding this kind of work.

20 You know, heat pumps, this is not only about heat
21 pumps but, you know, HVAC in the residential space and in
22 the commercial space, it's the primary energy consumption.
23 It's the primary emissions because a lot of the furnaces
24 are gas and we're going to be shifting those over to heat
25 pumps. And that is the cornerstone of our clean energy

1 transition to, you know, reduce emissions. That is the
2 existing buildings, you know, millions, literally, like
3 more than, you know, 15 million buildings or so need a
4 touch in their HVAC system, and roughly. And so, you know,
5 the lion's share of those are residential and we cannot
6 meet our goals without, you know, dealing with that head
7 on. And quality installations is the only way that happens
8 right. And so I just want to reflect all the comments,
9 most of the comments to that effect.

10 And I forget who mentioned the complexity of
11 these systems is actually increasing. And so quality
12 doesn't just happen, it really does require rigorous
13 training, and so we're supporting that. And I think, you
14 know, again, the partnership is, I'd say, getting more
15 well-developed, getting better developed and we just really
16 want to keep strengthening the partnership across the state
17 with these grants and going forward.

18 The idea, which I think we got wrong, the
19 collective we on the ARRA, in the ARRA period where we had
20 a lot of funding for different kinds of projects and
21 upgrades, but the workforce efforts didn't really match the
22 market. And so there are a bunch of trained people and
23 they didn't really have exactly the right training and
24 there weren't enough jobs to sort of give them something to
25 do and so it just didn't sort of gel. And here, you know,

1 we're about -- we have rolled out the Equitable Building
2 Decarbonization Program. We have relatively, really
3 unprecedented levels of investment in projects themselves
4 that will get a permit. And we are also working on a bunch
5 of -- for instance, you know, on the enforcement and
6 building relationships with local governments.

7 So all those pieces are really necessary to
8 surface all these projects that currently are just under
9 the radar, you know? And so we've got to get quality
10 technical hands on those. We've got to get them through
11 the permitting process. We have to, you know, bring the
12 local jurisdictions up to support that process. And this
13 is really a key piece of that puzzle to develop the
14 workforce side and create a credible path to get all those
15 things done and use our programs as a driver.

16 So there really is kind of an all-of-Commission
17 effort on this. And again, I just want to appreciate all
18 the commenters and just this work. We're in really
19 unprecedentedly complicated times; right? And everybody's
20 talking about how AI is going to displace jobs and, you
21 know, who knows the future of our economy. AI ain't
22 replacing these jobs. And so, and these are truly career
23 jobs.

24 And, you know, more and more young people are
25 going into the trades and not really seeing the value of,

1 say, traditional, you know, higher education in the sort of
2 liberal arts sense. You know, they really want to get to
3 work and they want to start earning money and supporting
4 families. And so I think we're, in a way, we're kind of
5 inoculating our economy by helping jobs that really can't
6 be exported and can't be displaced.

7 So anyway, for all these reasons, obviously I'm
8 super excited about this. And thanks for bearing with me
9 on my comments. You know, familiar faces and the
10 Building -- the relationships that, you know, we've built
11 and are continuing to build, I think are going to really be
12 important to sustain this effort for decades to come.

13 And Mark, hopefully, you know, you're a new
14 addition there in 34 years, you know, it will be 34 in
15 eight months and we'll be able to, you know, get on this
16 bandwagon as well. So really kudos to you for, I mean,
17 your leadership within, you know, your community and your
18 family and just setting an example for young people. It's
19 incredible, really.

20 So with that, I'll wrap up my comments, but I'm
21 super excited about this and I'll ask for a motion.

22 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: So move.

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right. Thank you,
25 Commissioners Skinner and Gallardo. All those in favor?

1 Commissioner Skinner?

2 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Gallardo?

4 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Chair Hochschild? We
6 need to stop. Is Chair Hochschild on? I think he was
7 going to be in and out.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I vote aye as well.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, there he is.
10 Great. All right. And I vote aye as well, so this passes.
11 This passes four to zero.

12 Congratulations, Amber. Great job. And just
13 thanks to you and the team and everybody who came today.
14 Appreciate it.

15 (Applause)

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Do you want to get a
17 photo?

18 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Are they going to do that?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: In closed session.
20 Okay, great. Great. And just ask our partners here on
21 that item to stick around for a little bit. Great.

22 So we can move on to Item 8, yeah, Lead
23 Commissioner or Commissioner Reports. Okay, great.

24 So who wants to start, Commissioner Gallardo?
25 Okay. Great. Great.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, are you okay? All
2 right. So I have one announcement and/or, I guess, one
3 report out. And it's a good one.

4 I have a fellow who joined my team. I'm losing a
5 couple soon and so it's really great to have another one
6 come in so my team continues to be robust. And I would
7 like her to introduce herself.

8 Hannah, do you want to come up here to the
9 podium? She's in the room. We always like to embarrass
10 our fellows early on so you get used to it.

11 MS. THADANI: Thank you for the opportunity to
12 introduce myself. My name is Hannah Thadani and I'm a
13 master's student at Stanford studying energy policy. I'm
14 really excited to join Commissioner Gallardo's Office for
15 the summer and learn as much as I can from all of you. So
16 thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Hannah, can you talk a
18 little bit about your past experience? I think they'll
19 appreciate that.

20 MS. THADANI: Yeah. I did my undergrad at UC
21 Berkeley. I am a proud Californian. And I spent the last
22 seven years in Washington, DC, where I was working for the
23 federal government. I was focused on foreign policy in the
24 Middle East, most recently serving as an advisor to the
25 Special Envoy for Yemen, where we were helping to negotiate

1 the peace deal, which has already happened.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So you're used to doing
3 hard things.

4 MS. THADANI: I'm excited to take on --

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: That's great.

6 MS. THADANI: -- a new challenge.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: That's great.

8 MS. THADANI: Energy really permeates all of
9 these issues abroad and at home --

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah.

11 MS. THADANI: -- so I'm excited to apply it here.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right. Welcome.
13 That's great.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Fantastic. Thank you,
15 Hannah. I'm so grateful that you decided to join our team.
16 You're going to be a wonderful addition and you're already
17 contributing, so really appreciate it.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Skinner?

19 COMMISSIONER SKINNER: Thank you. We held the
20 second Clean Transportation Program Advisory Committee on
21 June 30th. And the public comments on our Investment Plan
22 are due at the end of today. So if anyone has a comment
23 they want to make, it's today, Wednesday, July 28th. And
24 the link for how to do that is right on the Commission's
25 website. And once we receive those public comments, we

1 will see if there's any adjustments we need to make to
2 our -- to the Lead Commissioner Report. And we'll, like I
3 said, make any appropriate adjustments if necessary.

4 We'll then publish that Lead Commissioner report
5 this month. And our goal is to take the Clean
6 Transportation Plan Investment Update to the business
7 meeting for a vote on August the 12th or whatever August
8 meeting we have. And then the report would be adopted
9 September, 2026. And we can move forward with using those
10 funds to support good infrastructure for our zero emission
11 vehicles.

12 And that's my report.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you.

14 Chair Hochschild, did you want to make any lead
15 Commissioner or presiding member report? Maybe the
16 connectivity is a little challenging.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Can I add something while
18 we're waiting?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry,
20 Commissioner Gallardo, go ahead.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Just almost forgot, quick
22 announcement. We have a virtual workshop happening
23 tomorrow for the Geothermal chapter of the 2026 IEPR. So
24 if anyone is interested in joining us, it will be easy to
25 do. It's via Zoom.

1 I want to thank my chief of staff, Erik Stokes,
2 who is also in the room and who blushes easily because he's
3 so humble. He's been leading this effort and has done a
4 tremendous job, on top of doing all the other things he
5 does for me, so really appreciate that. He's a wonderful
6 team member and just excited to get moving on this
7 geothermal chapter.

8 So lots of opportunity to talk about jobs on that
9 as well. If anyone's interested. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you.

11 Do we have Chair Hochschild? No. I don't know
12 if he wants to make a report. Okay. Great. So I'll just
13 go ahead and wrap up this item. So just a brief report.

14 On upcoming workshops, just wanted to say the CEC
15 will host a workshop on -- for an order instituting an
16 informational proceeding on distributed energy resources in
17 California's energy future. So that's next week on
18 Wednesday, so in the afternoon -- no, it's all day
19 actually, 9:00 to 5:00, so encourage people to tune in with
20 that.

21 You know, load flexibility and DERs and their
22 role, they're really critical to, as we talked about
23 earlier, to understand how they're going to play in the
24 grid and use them to optimize the capital, the heavy, heavy
25 capital investment that the grid needs to take on all the

1 new loads that we're going to see with, you know, EVs and
2 buildings, and eventually data centers in California. So,
3 you know, we really need to right size those investments
4 and that's good for rate payers. So distributed energy
5 resources are really important for that. So just encourage
6 people to tune in.

7 I wanted to also make an announcement of an
8 addition to my office. I have a new executive assistant
9 who I'm super excited about. Leslie Nguyen just came, is
10 originally from California, and has a really interesting
11 trajectory doing lots of, you know, managing teams and
12 doing like big retail, running big retail enterprises. And
13 most recently was a DOE fellow in Columbia (indiscernible)
14 working for the city, helping them figure out how they can
15 green their energy supply. And so really ecstatic to have
16 her in my office doing logistics and scheduling all that
17 stuff, but also really hopeful that, you know, she'll build
18 her subject matter expertise and really, you know, she's
19 super excited to be at the Commission learning about energy
20 and building her career. So that's great for my office and
21 my team.

22 I did want to say, like yesterday, before
23 yesterday, went to an opening of or a ribbon cutting for an
24 early project funded by the BUILD Program that was passed
25 in 2018, I believe. It was a Senator Henry Stern, SB 1477,

1 and provided funds for new construction of affordable
2 housing so that to cover the increment so that those new
3 projects can go all electric and have, you know, the best
4 technology and pay for some of those incremental costs and
5 really work with builders to get them used to building
6 these kinds of buildings so that, you know, the next
7 project, the next project can get costs down and really get
8 these buildings just have the best practice and status quo
9 be all electric new construction.

10 And it's San Juan Apartments down on Stockton
11 Boulevard in Sacramento and a beautiful project that Mutual
12 Housing has developed and with support from multiple
13 sources. You know, we played a \$600,000 role in this \$40
14 million project, but the appreciation and the partnership
15 was just palpable. And I think it was a real milestone
16 that felt like important first for the City of Sacramento.
17 And Mutual Housing has a number of other projects in the
18 pipeline and is really moving towards modular and really
19 innovating in the affordable space. And I think it was a
20 real snapshot of the future. So I think it was really good
21 and kudos to Mutual Housing and all the partners for
22 getting that done.

23 And also wanted to just call out all the efforts
24 that are going on in the Buildings Team and the Efficiency
25 Division, both on the development of the 2028 Code for, you

1 know, the Title 24, and also implementing the 2025 Code and
2 really working with stakeholders on, you know, applying the
3 2025 Code and also, you know, adapting to the AB 130
4 limitations on development of the new code. The rebuilds
5 now are going to be under 2022 Code. So they're just
6 juggling a lot of different elements and doing an amazing
7 job on that and focusing on, as, you know, we talked about
8 a little earlier on enforcement and building the
9 relationships that make enforcement much more integral to
10 the process from design on.

11 So I think the building those relationships
12 across the state, you know, we have a big state and working
13 with the Office of Compliance in the Executive Office to
14 build the relationships with the local jurisdictions and
15 just help them, you know, demystify really their role and
16 also just build relationships so that we have, you know,
17 sort of consistent trust across the state and really get
18 common application of the Building Code. And that is new
19 construction and retrofits. You know, the retrofits are so
20 important. And a lot of those HVAC change-outs are just
21 going undetected, they're not getting permits. And so
22 really trying to fix that.

23 So anyway, just kudos to Mike Sokol and Will
24 Vicente, Scott Blunk and all their teams in the Efficiency
25 Division for all the work that they're doing.

1 And I mentioned before the BUILD, the San Juan
2 Apartments, that was actually a RREDI Division. So Amber,
3 who we heard from, and Deana Carrillo and her whole team
4 has been focusing, Savi and a bunch, yeah, a bunch of great
5 staff working on the BUILD Program and the CalEHP Program
6 which is the market rate version of that, and Camille and,
7 yeah, a whole big team on that.

8 So lots of -- it feels like we're reaching some
9 milestones. After a lot of behind-the-scenes work, we're
10 actually, you know, getting stuff done and out there in the
11 world and that's what it's all about.

12 So with that, I will wrap up and that's Item 8.

13 So Item 9, Executive Director Report.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOHAN: Great. Thank you. A
15 couple of quick things.

16 We are fully embracing AI here at the Energy
17 Commission. I share your view that you expressed earlier,
18 Commissioner, about it's not going to be taking away jobs.
19 I think we can really leverage this tool. So we will be
20 looking to you to help us identify those highest priority
21 projects where the tool can really be most effective.
22 We're building an infrastructure so that we've got the
23 personnel to help facilitate the many staff who want to use
24 it to make improvements in the way they do their business.

25 And we've got numerous license enough for anyone

1 who needs them for the sort of Copilot+ version that
2 integrates with the suite of tools that Microsoft provides.
3 And we want to be on the bleeding edge of taking advantage
4 of the other things that come out of the California
5 Department of Technology where they're being thoughtful
6 about how they procure and curate and make sure that there
7 are appropriate checks in place for some of the other tools
8 we're expecting to see Claude soon and we want to be right
9 there.

10 And finally, I want to, related to this,
11 introduce who's not here, but Chad Serrao (phonetic), who's
12 a Schultz fellow who's working with the Executive Office
13 all summer. He indicated early on, he was a bit of an AI
14 skeptic. I asked if he could look into a couple of very
15 specific projects I won't go into now in AI. He came back
16 in a week and it was rather unbelievable what he was able
17 to come up with and we'll be sharing details on all this
18 stuff.

19 But that's what I wanted to share today. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Thanks Drew.
22 Chief Council -- or Public Advisor's Report,
23 sorry.

24 Ryan?

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. I'm really excited today

1 and I want to express on behalf of the PAO Team that we're
2 grateful and honored to be able to continue to make an
3 impact in communities. And I especially want to emphasize
4 the importance of investing in those with barriers to
5 employment and making sure that those folks can thrive and
6 their families can thrive as we transition to a clean
7 energy economy.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks, Ryan.

10 Chief Council Report, Sanjay.

11 MR. RANCHOD: No report today, Commissioners, but
12 I do recommend we adjourn to a closed session. Pursuant to
13 Government Code section 11126(e), the CEC may adjourn to a
14 closed session with its legal counsel to discuss pending
15 litigation, including the matters listed in agenda item 11b
16 and to discuss any judicial proceeding that was formally
17 initiated after the agenda was published and to discuss
18 whether to initiate litigation.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Great. So we
20 will adjourn to closed session and we anticipate taking
21 about an hour 15, something like that. Okay, so we'll try
22 to be back here at 4:45 to wrap up and close the business
23 meeting out. All right, thanks.

24 (The Commission convened closed session.)

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, so this is

1 Commissioner McAllister. I'm just reporting out from the
2 closed session. We have nothing to report and this meeting
3 is adjourned. Thanks, everybody.

4 (The Commission adjourned)

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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 August, 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.

August 7, 2026MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367