

| <b>DOCKETED</b>         |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 26-IEPR-05                                                                                      |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Energy Equity and Environmental Justice                                                         |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 272051                                                                                          |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Alexandra Snell (PSE Healthy Energy) Comments -<br>Advancements in Meaningful Community Metrics |
| <b>Description:</b>     | N/A                                                                                             |
| <b>Filer:</b>           | System                                                                                          |
| <b>Organization:</b>    | Alexandra Snell (PSE Healthy Energy)                                                            |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Public                                                                                          |
| <b>Submission Date:</b> | 8/19/2026 1:56:31 PM                                                                            |
| <b>Docketed Date:</b>   | 8/19/2026                                                                                       |

*Comment Received From: Alexandra Snell (PSE Healthy Energy)*  
*Submitted On: 8/19/2026*  
*Docket Number: 26-IEPR-05*

## **Advancements in Meaningful Community Metrics**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2026 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update proceeding on energy equity and environmental justice. I commend the Commission for its efforts, particularly the work to incorporate feedback and take actionable steps to provide more customized support to tribes and communities by funding workshops and tribal consultations.

I submit these comments as a Community Impact Scientist at PSE Healthy Energy, where my research sits at the intersection of energy systems and community realities. My work centers on community engagement, bi-directional education, and community impacts research designed to bring community knowledge into scientific research and policies. That background informs the comments below, which focus on strengthening the Energy Equity Indicators to better reflect community-defined priorities and lived experiences.

As described, the current EEI Tool includes three core components: (1) data visualization and mapping, including a database of equity data, geographic data layers, and tools for data access and analysis; (2) insights to help prioritize CEC efforts and investments; and (3) expansion of CalEnviroScreen insights. Community metrics have been identified as a supplementary layer within the EEI Application Diagram, and I want to underscore that these community metrics can and should extend well beyond standard demographic indicators.

Establishing clear pathways for communities to provide context, input, and lived experiences, and a means to synthesize that information, is essential to advancing procedural equity aligned with the EEI's equity goals. Building on some of the Commission's existing efforts, robust community metrics can meaningfully inform policy priorities, and measure progress towards energy democracy. With that in mind, I offer the following recommendations.

- First, the Commission should improve data accessibility and transparency, and measure this by tracking dollars spent on and/or hours of technical assistance (TA) provided. This recommendation aligns directly with the data visualization and mapping component of the EEI Tool. Previous CEC RFPs have funded technical assistance to help community groups navigate administrative requirements, but many communities still lack the capacity or technical expertise to fully synthesize EEI data for their own advocacy or action. Funding TA that centers locally driven research questions on energy equity would help close that gap and connect the data in the EEI Tool to policy solutions that are genuinely relevant to the communities they are meant to serve. TA should also be designed to improve community capacity and expertise, with Knowledge Transfer Activities designed to increase the research capacity of the community when it comes to leverages EEI data and other tools.
- Second, the Commission should continue to incorporate community voices through structured stakeholder engagement, feedback capture, and incorporation. This can be tracked through the number of stakeholder events and participants, and/or dollars spent to engage organizations and residents, alongside participation metrics and tracking and communication of how community input was ultimately used. This kind of engagement works best as a genuinely bi-directional

exchange, where the Commission shares relevant data with communities, and communities, in turn, help identify research gaps, priorities, and where existing tools and data are falling short. Community trust and buy-in depends not just on holding events, but on strong communication and transparency, including sharing reports on how community feedback informs policies, new metrics, etc. Sustained engagement of this kind also helps communities stay aware of relevant energy equity policies and supports, while helping the Commission identify gaps in implementation. Since policies play out differently across communities, both quantitative and qualitative data should be captured and incorporated into future EEI iterations.

- Third, the Commission should track the dollar value and number of clean energy assets owned by community members and organizations as a result of these investments, as this supports equity through ownership, and the ability for communities to take control of their energy futures.

Together, these three recommendations strengthen the data visualization and mapping component of the EEI Tool and generate the community-informed insights needed to prioritize CEC efforts and investments, while reinforcing community metrics as valuable, supplementary data within the tool.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Snell

Community Impact Scientist

PSE Healthy Energy