

## DOCKETED

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BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
 ) Docket No. 18-MISC-03  
Renewable Energy for )  
Agriculture Program (REAP) )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**STAFF WORKSHOP**  
**DISCUSSION ON THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION'S**  
**PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR**  
**AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
ART ROSENFELD HEARING ROOM - FIRST FLOOR  
1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

9:02 A.M.

Reported by:  
Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF

Geoff Dodson

Natalie Lee

Sherrill Neidich

Elizabeth Hutchison

O'Shea Bennett

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Mills, California Farm Bureau

Ed Noma, Advantiv Technologies, Inc.

Dave Salem, Brad Thompson Company

Jim Sasseen, Center for Sustainable Energy (Via WebEx)

AGENDA

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1

P R O C E E D I N G S

2

2:01 P.M.

3

1 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

2 MR. DODSON: So good afternoon, everyone.

3 My name is Geoff Dodson and I'm the Lead Staff  
4 member on the Renewable Energy for Agriculture  
5 Program, also known by the acronym REAP. And  
6 I'll be going over the presentation today.

7 A couple of little housekeeping items to  
8 go over real quick. In the event of an  
9 emergency, please follow CEC staff out to the  
10 nearest exist and proceed to Roosevelt Park,  
11 located diagonally across the street. I believe  
12 all the hail/snow has melted off, so it should be  
13 safe for your evacuation needs.

14 Restrooms are located just outside the  
15 main door to the left, just before the exit. And  
16 there's also a snack bar up on the second floor.

17 We have several folks joining us online,  
18 on WebEx, so I ask that you please keep your  
19 lines muted while the presenter is talking.  
20 There will be time for questions, where we will  
21 cover the questions from those in the room first,  
22 and then go to the questions over on WebEx.

23 For those on WebEx, please ask your  
24 questions privately through the chat function, if  
25 it is just a question. If you have comments, we

1 will also be opening up the lines for WebEx  
2 guests to speak.

3           So here's a little overview of the agenda  
4 for today. I'll be continuing on the  
5 presentation of the current proposals for the  
6 Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program. And  
7 then, the most important part is we want to hear  
8 from you.

9           We have developed some discussion  
10 questions that we would appreciate your feedback  
11 on and we also welcome general public comment.

12           At the end of our scheduled time or when  
13 public comment is complete, we will review the  
14 next steps and make sure that everyone has the  
15 contact information so they can follow up.

16           This presentation will be available to  
17 everyone, once it is added up on the docket  
18 established for this program, following this  
19 workshop today.

20           Before we start on the content of the  
21 program proposal, we want to be sure to recognize  
22 the Energy Commission's efforts to ensure  
23 diversity in our programs.

24           The Energy Commission has adopted a  
25 formal resolution strengthening its commitment to

1 diversity in our funding programs. We continue  
2 to encourage disadvantaged communities and under-  
3 represented businesses, and communities to engage  
4 in and benefit from our many programs.

5           To meet this commitment, the Energy  
6 Commission staff conducts outreach efforts and  
7 activities included in the list, shown on the  
8 screen here.

9           And just so everyone is aware, there's  
10 several different ways you can connect with us so  
11 you can stay up to date on all of our activities  
12 and funding opportunities at the Energy  
13 Commission.

14           So a little bit of background on REAP.  
15 Authorized with the passage of Assembly Bill 109,  
16 referred to as the Budget Act of 2017, the  
17 Renewable Energy for Agriculture Program, also  
18 known as REAP, will provide \$6 million from the  
19 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, also known as  
20 GGRF, to assist agriculture operations with the  
21 installation of on-site renewable energy  
22 technologies, with an emphasis in providing  
23 assistance in disadvantaged and low-income  
24 communities.

25           REAP was established by the same

1 legislation that authorized the Food Processor  
2 Investment Program, which is a research and  
3 development grant program, also administered by  
4 the Energy Commission.

5           So as we were developing the program  
6 guidelines, there are a number of areas we'd like  
7 to see input on. Today, we will review the  
8 anticipated program schedule and discuss the  
9 overall program goals. Then, we'll move into the  
10 areas of the proposed REAP program for which we'd  
11 like to hear your ideas, including project  
12 funding levels, proposed eligibility  
13 requirements, and project types.

14           This is going to be a high-level overview  
15 so we again what to emphasize that these are  
16 initial proposals. The primary purpose of this  
17 workshop is to hear from you guys. We would like  
18 feedback on all of our ideas, as well as ideas of  
19 your own.

20           So this slide provides a small overview  
21 of our program schedule. As the program is  
22 designed and implemented, the Energy Commission  
23 staff will seek input from potential program  
24 participants and will finalize the solicitation  
25 and program guidelines that reflect feedback from



1 these community engagement efforts.

2 As outlined here, based on the feedback  
3 received through this workshop and the workshop  
4 scheduled for next week, in the Central Valley,  
5 staff will be preparing draft program guidelines,  
6 which will also be made available for public  
7 comment.

8 Staff will finalize the program  
9 guidelines and the solicitation materials, which  
10 we anticipate releasing in August of this year,  
11 with proposals due in September of 2018, and the  
12 scoring completed in October of 2018. We  
13 anticipate issuing a notice of proposed awards in  
14 late 2018 and working after that to finalize  
15 grant agreements.

16 First, it is important to acknowledge  
17 that the development of the REAP program will  
18 reflect all requirements for California Climate  
19 Investment Programs, as outlined in the Agency  
20 Funding Guidelines, prepared by the California  
21 Air Resources Board.

22 As our funding comes from the Greenhouse  
23 Gas Reduction Fund, the primary goal of the  
24 program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  
25 All California Climate Investment projects must

1 reduce greenhouse emissions and administering  
2 agencies must use a GHG qualification methodology  
3 that has been developed or approved by the  
4 California Air Resources Board.

5           To accomplish this, and as directed by  
6 the legislation authorizing the program, the  
7 primary goal of the program is to assist  
8 agriculture operations with the installation of  
9 on-site renewable energy technologies, with an  
10 emphasis on providing assistance in disadvantaged  
11 and low-income communities.

12           Projects are expected to support  
13 agricultural operations in increasing resiliency  
14 and electricity reliability, which potentially  
15 offers a number of benefits, including  
16 reliability and cost savings.

17           Additionally, we hope to develop a  
18 program to realize additional co-benefits,  
19 including reductions in local air pollutions and  
20 the additional benefits to the local community.

21           So here's a brief funding overview of the  
22 program. The overall budget for the program is  
23 \$6 million. The minimum award amount proposed is  
24 to be \$50,000, with a maximum for any single  
25 award of \$250,000. Staff are proposing these

1 funding limits to provide sufficient funding for  
2 projects, but also maximizing the reach of the  
3 funds throughout the State of California.

4 Staff are further proposing a single  
5 award per operation and would like to hear your  
6 feedback on potentially awarding on assessor's  
7 parcel number basis, allowing funding for a  
8 single APN, or a group of APNs, but only one  
9 award for any single APN.

10 As there are a number of potential  
11 funding sources for similar or related projects,  
12 staff are further proposing that any operation  
13 submitting proposals under a REAP solicitation  
14 must identify funds provided by any other State  
15 programs. Receipt of the funds from other  
16 programs is not considered to preclude  
17 participation in REAP, however the proposal will  
18 be evaluated for effectiveness and overall  
19 expenditure.

20 The funding guidelines require that if an  
21 applicant is leveraging funds from multiple  
22 sources of GGRF dollars, or if the applicant is  
23 pursuing funding from multiple sources of these  
24 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars, the  
25 applicant must describe all existing or potential

1 GGRF sources in the application materials.

2           The entities that staff are proposing to  
3 be eligible for the program funding are owners of  
4 agriculture operations, including private parties  
5 and nonprofit agencies.

6           We are interested in hearing from you if  
7 there's a need to support academic operations,  
8 such as demonstration in teaching facilities.

9           I know this slide looks a little dense,  
10 but I just want to show you some definitions for  
11 your reference. The FARMER Program, implemented  
12 by the Air Resources Board, and also partially  
13 funded by GGRF funds has adopted the definition  
14 of agricultural operations contained in ARB's  
15 regulation for in-use, off-road, diesel vehicles  
16 as shown on this slide, up at the top.

17           The SWEEP Program, implemented by the  
18 California Department of Food and Agriculture,  
19 and again funded by Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund  
20 monies, uses a related, but different definition  
21 as shown here at the bottom of the slide.

22           And again, you guys will have a copy of  
23 this slide deck available to you, so don't worry  
24 about writing all of this down.

25           Staff here are considering a definition

1 for the purposes of REAP similar to the  
2 definition used in the FARMER Program, but not  
3 including forest operations. While staff  
4 recognizes the need for support of forest  
5 management activities, we also feel that it may  
6 be more efficient to focus this funding on the  
7 areas included in this proposed definition.  
8 Again, we would like to hear your feedback on  
9 this proposal.

10 AB 1532 requires that cap and trade  
11 auction proceeds be used to facilitate the  
12 achievement of greenhouse gas reductions in  
13 California and specifies additional co-benefits  
14 to consider.

15 The REAP program will facilitate the  
16 achievement of greenhouse gas reductions and  
17 other co-benefits through incentivizing the  
18 installation of renewable energy in agriculture  
19 operations. This may include the installation of  
20 renewable energy to offset grid energy, and could  
21 potentially include replacing fossil fuel  
22 equipment, combined with the installation of  
23 renewable energy to provide the electricity for  
24 upgraded equipment.

25 This slide here presents a list of some

1 of the proposed project types that could be  
2 funded through our program. This is not intended  
3 to be a comprehensive list, only a suggested list  
4 of examples.

5 Eligible projects are expected to include  
6 proven renewable energy resources. This could  
7 include solar PV, wind turbines, solar trees, and  
8 battery storage used on site.

9 Just to reiterate here, again, all of  
10 these -- everything shown here is just a  
11 proposal. So this slide here shows what we may  
12 consider to be eligible covered costs through our  
13 funding awards. We are not going to be paying  
14 for CEQA costs related to any projects you do.

15 SB 535 established the original  
16 requirements related to the investment of  
17 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds in disadvantaged  
18 communities to provide economic and health  
19 benefits to these communities.

20 In 2016, AB 1550 revised these  
21 requirements, increasing the share of the State's  
22 auction proceeds that must be invested within  
23 disadvantaged communities and adding new  
24 requirements to direct additional investments to  
25 low-income communities and low-income households.

1 AB 1550 requires at least 25 percent of  
2 auction proceeds to be invested for projects  
3 within and benefitting disadvantaged communities.  
4 Five percent for projects within and benefitting  
5 low-income communities, or benefitting low-income  
6 households statewide. And 5 percent for projects  
7 within and benefitting low-income communities or  
8 low-income households that are within a half-mile  
9 of disadvantaged communities.

10 We are committed to supporting  
11 disadvantaged and low-income communities and aim  
12 to support these goals of AB 1550.

13 For the REAP program, we recommend  
14 allocating 50 percent of the total funds for  
15 projects within and benefitting disadvantaged  
16 communities, and 10 percent for projects within  
17 and benefitting low-income communities, based on  
18 the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 model.

19 We would, however, like to hear your  
20 input on this proposal and also how this program  
21 can maximize benefits to these communities.

22 Project implemented under California  
23 Climate Investments are also directed to maximize  
24 economic, environmental, public health, and  
25 benefits to the State. To foster job creation by

1 promoting projects carried out by California  
2 workers and businesses, and complement efforts to  
3 improve air quality.

4           Consistent with these requirements, we  
5 propose providing preference to projects that  
6 include measures that improve local air quality,  
7 achieve public health benefits, and results in  
8 the job creation and job training.

9           We further propose to develop a  
10 solicitation to include a preference for projects  
11 that include mechanisms for the energy cost  
12 savings from project implementation to be  
13 reinvested in the local community. And projects  
14 that provide other community benefits, such as  
15 demonstrations, to encourage additional similar  
16 investment in renewable energy or education for  
17 local residents or the business community.

18           Additionally, we are proposing to provide  
19 preference points to projects that provide  
20 innovative solutions that have a broad impact,  
21 and projects that provide match funding.

22           So match funding, in our proposal is not  
23 required, but applicants are strongly encouraged  
24 to include a 50-percent match. Applications that  
25 include matching funds will receive additional



1 consideration. Matching funds are defined as a  
2 portion of the project costs not covered by the  
3 grant award and can include cash and/or in-kind  
4 contributions.

5 In-kind contributions can include costs  
6 associated with the labor, equipment, facilities,  
7 and other property, or property improvements  
8 related to the project.

9 The California Air Resources Board  
10 Funding guidelines for agencies that administer  
11 California Climate Investments state that to the  
12 maximum extent feasible, administering agencies  
13 should seek opportunities to work together to  
14 provide multiple benefits and to maximize the  
15 benefits from each program.

16 Several administering agencies could  
17 coordinate and leverage their resources to  
18 provide funding for a project, or to fund  
19 multiple related projects in the same geographic  
20 area. This coordination may involve sharing  
21 information with applicants about the other  
22 California Climate Investment Programs that offer  
23 funding for complementary projects.

24 The funding guidelines also note that our  
25 investments should be coordinated with local,

1 state, and federal funding programs to avoid  
2 duplicative efforts.

3           The REAP program is coordinating efforts  
4 with the FARMER program, implemented by the Air  
5 Resources Board, as well as the SWEEP program,  
6 which is implemented by the California Department  
7 of Food and Agriculture. We would welcome your  
8 input on other efforts we can coordinate with.

9           So this provides a pretty general  
10 overview of our proposed elements of the REAP  
11 program. Now, we would really like to hear from  
12 all of you. We have developed a few questions  
13 for discussion and we would like to ask for  
14 feedback on these questions, as well as overall  
15 public comment.

16           As you develop written comments on the  
17 proposed program, we do request that you provide  
18 additional input on the questions posed here.  
19 Your comments are very important to us and will  
20 help us with developing our guidelines.

21           While comments in person are helpful and  
22 will become part of the public record, we  
23 encourage you to submit written comments as well.  
24 Directions for providing public comment through  
25 the docket established for this program will be

1 provided at the end of this workshop.

2           So we're going to go ahead and open up  
3 the questions to everyone in the room here,  
4 first. After everyone in the room has had an  
5 opportunity to speak, we will move to the WebEx  
6 attendees, first taking questions from the chat  
7 section and then given WebEx telephone guests an  
8 opportunity to comment.

9           Please remember that your comments are  
10 being recorded and they may become part of the  
11 public record.

12           So here are a few questions to consider.  
13 The next slide also has a few more questions  
14 after this, so we will move on to that after we  
15 are done with these kind of discussion questions  
16 here. But take a look at the questions you see  
17 here and really, like I said any feedback or  
18 comments you have on this will really be helpful.

19           So we do have a microphone. So yeah,  
20 when you do get the microphone please state your  
21 name and also what you're affiliated with.

22           MS. MILLS: Karen Mills with the  
23 California Farm Bureau. Hi.

24           MR. DODSON: Hi.

25           MS. MILLS: One of the threshold

1 questions I have is with regard to the schedule.

2 MR. DODSON: Uh-huh.

3 MS. MILLS: Your focus is on on-site and  
4 grower-owned, operator-owned projects but you've  
5 got the projects due during peak harvest time in  
6 California. Is there any flexibility about when  
7 the applications will be due?

8 MR. DODSON: Yeah, I think we have one of  
9 our senior staff members is going to answer that  
10 question.

11 MS. LEE: Good afternoon. I'm Natalie  
12 Lee. I'm the Deputy Director of the Renewable  
13 Energy Division here at the Energy Commission.  
14 We were trying to meet a number of goals, but  
15 this is exactly the kind of really practical, you  
16 know, in-practice kind of information we need.  
17 We are very interested in maximizing the use of  
18 these funds, having the funds available for the  
19 longest period of the encumbrance and expenditure  
20 period for the monies.

21 What would -- can I ask you, if we were  
22 to try to accelerate the time frame to get the  
23 money out on the street earlier, is there an  
24 opportunity in that window or are you really  
25 feeling like we need to defer to a later time

1 frame?

2 MS. MILLS: You know, I'm just looking at  
3 the schedule and, you know, really beginning in  
4 August operators are -- it's a very intense  
5 period of time, really August through October.

6 MS. LEE: Through October.

7 MS. MILLS: Yeah. And so, I work on  
8 energy issues for the Farm Bureau and a lot of  
9 times we -- you know, so you've got some  
10 education and outreach earlier than that, but  
11 usually we look at things after, you know,  
12 beginning in November or December. Of course,  
13 it's always hard with the holidays and things  
14 like that. But September, you know,  
15 August/September are really tough times, and even  
16 into October, really, if you're asked -- if  
17 you're trying to get people's attention to do  
18 something that I anticipate will take quite a few  
19 hours to do it, unless they've got somebody, you  
20 know, is doing it all for them, which is not the  
21 common practice.

22 MS. LEE: Can I ask, I know that some  
23 programs have solicited the help of technical  
24 assistance centers, folks that can kind of come  
25 alongside the operators to complete some of the

1 documentation, assist them, and also streamline  
2 application processes with very focused funding,  
3 such as this.

4 MS. MILLS: Yeah.

5 MS. LEE: If we can accelerate the up-  
6 front time and accomplish these other kind of  
7 supportive efforts to provide some technical  
8 assistance and a very streamlined application --

9 MS. MILLS: Right.

10 MS. LEE: -- do you think we can craft  
11 something that where we could try to still get  
12 this money out on the street, you know, ready to  
13 final agreements by the end of this year? It's  
14 not ideal, is it?

15 MS. MILLS: I don't -- you know, I don't  
16 know.

17 MS. LEE: I mean, I'm hearing you, it's  
18 not ideal, no.

19 MS. MILLS: I mean, you know, I don't  
20 know the answer to that. I mean it is particular  
21 to a lot of circumstances. You know, it just  
22 depends.

23 MS. LEE: Uh-huh.

24 MS. MILLS: But I think certainly those  
25 kinds of things do help and, you know, are really

1 important if you're trying to expedite it, yeah.

2 MS. LEE: Yeah, I will say that one of  
3 our, you know, kind of driving recommendations is  
4 to try to have the funds awarded, at least a  
5 notice of award prior to the end of the year to  
6 meet that. Again, I really appreciate that  
7 recognition that it will be an impact to the  
8 exact community we're trying to serve. So, you  
9 know, I think what we will do is take this  
10 feedback back, see what we can incorporate that  
11 could alleviate the burden for participating in  
12 the program and to try to maintain the  
13 timeframes. But absolutely appreciate and  
14 recognize the impact. Thank you for providing  
15 that.

16 MR. DODSON: We have a couple more  
17 questions to consider for discussion. Again,  
18 we'll open it up for the room here if anyone has  
19 any specific comments or questions.

20 MR. NOMA: Yeah, my name is Ed Noma. I'm  
21 with Advantiv Technologies. And we're involved  
22 in clean energy, as well as technology for  
23 agriculture and also other industries.

24 But yeah, in terms of the first question,  
25 I mean this is just a completely self-serving

1 comment but, yeah, we are definitely starting to  
2 talk to various academic institutions about  
3 working with them on -- for example UC  
4 Agricultural and National Resources ANR group has  
5 research centers. They are, I think, thinking at  
6 least about integrated technology demonstration  
7 sites. And those feel like they would be a great  
8 to show a really holistic, you know, bringing  
9 together of clean energy, of new farm  
10 technologies like automation sensors, and things  
11 like that. So for the first one at least, I  
12 would vote yes.

13 MR. DODSON: Great. Thank you very much  
14 for your comment.

15 MS. LEE: Again, this is Natalie Lee.  
16 Can I ask in regard -- one of the areas, and if  
17 you'd prefer to provide this by written comment,  
18 that's great. But we really are interested in  
19 knowing if the funding levels are sufficient to  
20 accomplish the goals of the program and if they  
21 would exclude or preclude a project type that you  
22 feel is needed in the agricultural community,  
23 where there's an opportunity for the use of these  
24 funds. So right now, the proposal is \$50,000 as  
25 a minimum award and \$250,000 as a maximum award



1 for any single operation. But we are also  
2 looking at some of the other program models that  
3 associate that on an APN basis. So with that in  
4 mind, again if you have something you'd like to  
5 share now, great. Otherwise, this is an area we  
6 really do want some feedback from those of you  
7 who are developing projects and working in  
8 operations as to whether these are reasonable,  
9 and sufficient to accomplish the goals of the  
10 program.

11 MR. SALEM: Hi, Dave Salem, Brad Thompson  
12 Company. We're developing a few cogeneration  
13 projects on AG sites. And to be honest, you  
14 know, typically these projects could be \$8 to \$15  
15 million. And so, you know, the award values are  
16 pretty low. You'd get, basically, some  
17 feasibility engineering done. I mean, and so our  
18 goal was maybe some of this would have been a  
19 little higher.

20 MR. DODSON: Thank you very much.  
21 Obviously, one of the challenges is we only have  
22 \$6 million to work with. So as you can see, it  
23 can be a little tough. But as far as working  
24 within that \$6 million, we can definitely  
25 consider a different range.

1           It looks like we have a couple of WebEx  
2 questions, so I'm going to go ahead and give the  
3 mic to our staff member, O'Shea, who's going to  
4 go over those.

5           MR. BENNETT: We only actually just had  
6 one from a gentleman named Philip, who asked: Is  
7 energy for food processing included in the  
8 program?

9           MR. DODSON: Asked us if -- what kind of  
10 --

11          MR. BENNETT: Energy for food processing  
12 is included in the program?

13          MR. DODSON: If you mean specifically  
14 renewable energy that helps support food  
15 processing, is that what you're asking because --

16          MR. BENNETT: He said he's a provider of  
17 renewable energy for food processors.

18          MR. DODSON: Okay. So as far as I can  
19 tell at this point, I mean if it kind of falls  
20 under the purview of an agricultural operation  
21 that would certainly be something that would be  
22 eligible.

23           It's also important to note there  
24 actually is a similar program, administered in a  
25 different division of the Energy Commission,

1 called the Food Processing Investment Program.  
2 And they actually have \$60 million. And I  
3 believe they had their first workshop two weeks  
4 ago.

5 And information about that program can  
6 actually also be found on our main webpage, too.  
7 So I would suspect that that gentleman may find  
8 eligibility in at least one of those two  
9 programs.

10 MR. BENNETT: Great. We actually have  
11 one more question from a Vagelis Vossos. And it  
12 says: Would you consider off-grid renewable  
13 energy projects in the program?

14 MR. DODSON: My belief at this point is  
15 any project would probably need to be  
16 interconnected, although I can't say for sure if  
17 that's a definite no. But I do believe that  
18 we're going to require some sort of  
19 interconnection.

20 MR. NOMA: Sorry if you kind of covered  
21 it, but I was wondering at what point would we  
22 get maybe some more information on parameters of  
23 how you'll be judging, you know, and selecting  
24 recipients?

25 MR. DODSON: Yeah, that's a good

1 question. So like I said before, this is kind of  
2 the introductory workshop where we're taking  
3 public feedback. But as noted in the proposal  
4 for the schedule, the draft guidelines would  
5 probably be a good, you know, a good solid  
6 opening way to get, you know, detailed  
7 information on that to see kind of more of the  
8 finer details of this program.

9           And then as we move forward with the  
10 solicitation release, that will have everything  
11 of course.

12           And so there will be the draft  
13 guidelines, and then that will have to be adopted  
14 at a business meeting where it will get  
15 formalized into actual program guidelines.

16           MS. LEE: And I'll just clarify. You  
17 will see guidance as to scoring criteria in the  
18 draft guidelines.

19           MR. SASSEEN: Hi. I have a question.

20           MR. DODSON: Go for it.

21           MR. SASSEEN: I was just wondering, is  
22 the cannabis industry in any way specifically  
23 excluded or ineligible for this grant?

24           MS. LEE: Can I ask you to state your  
25 name and affiliation for the transcriber, and

1 then Jeff will respond for you?

2 MR. SASSEEN: Yeah, sure. Jim Sasseen  
3 with the Center for Sustainable Energy.

4 MR. DODSON: Great. Thank you for your  
5 question. My understanding at this point is that  
6 we're focused mostly on the licensing of the  
7 agriculture operation and we're not necessarily  
8 as concerned about the crop that's being grown.  
9 So as long as all the licensing is there, then  
10 any agriculture operation should be eligible.

11 MR. SASSEEN: Thank you.

12 MS. LEE: Could you spell your name for  
13 us, please?

14 MR. SASSEEN: Yes. It's S-A-S-S-E-E-N.

15 MS. LEE: Thank you. And I will say the  
16 proposed definition of agricultural operation is  
17 key to a couple of the questions that have been  
18 asked. So if you could please review that and in  
19 your opinion, in the written comments, provide if  
20 you feel that there's any clarification needed in  
21 the definition.

22 MR. NOMA: Yeah, sorry, one more  
23 question. If, for example our company would  
24 be -- might be interested in just participating,  
25 supporting potential applicants in terms of maybe

1 in-kind work, labor or, you know, other types of  
2 things. So is there a mechanism with how we  
3 could, for example, link up with those types of  
4 folks as they're putting together their  
5 application?

6 MR. DODSON: Yes, I believe so. I guess  
7 the applicant itself would be the, you know, the  
8 owner or the operator of the agriculture farm.  
9 But as far as who they work with, that wouldn't  
10 necessarily preclude anyone from kind of  
11 participating and getting funding awards.

12 MR. NOMA: Right. And, oh, sorry that  
13 brings up another question. Certainly, the owner  
14 of the agricultural operation might be the  
15 applicant. Might other applicants be, for  
16 example, people who provide, you know, renewable  
17 energy that are -- or are you looking for  
18 applicants to be really the owners of the  
19 operation?

20 MR. DODSON: At this point in time our  
21 expectation is it will probably be the owners of  
22 the agricultural operation or at least, you know,  
23 someone affiliated with that land itself.

24 MR. NOMA: Sure.

25 MR. DODSON: So, you know, they would of

1 course work with the installation company or the  
2 solar provider. But we don't anticipate at this  
3 point in time that the solar providers,  
4 themselves, would be eligible as an applicant.

5 MR. NOMA: All right, thank you.

6 MR. DODSON: Any other WebEx questions at  
7 this time or anything?

8 In case anyone hasn't already covered, if  
9 there's any other kind of off-topic comments not  
10 related to the questions shown, does anyone have  
11 any specific recommendations, or suggestions, or  
12 feedback that they'd like to share?

13 MS. MILLS: I mean, it's in our outline.  
14 So in response to the question that was just  
15 asked regarding the entities that can apply, you  
16 have listed as potential eligible entities, you  
17 include nonprofit agencies. And I wondered if  
18 you had something in mind for that? Who that  
19 might include or who we were trying to target by  
20 including that definition.

21 MR. DODSON: Well, that's actually a good  
22 question that, you know, we'd like to hear from  
23 you if you have any specific suggestions. We're  
24 not necessarily targeting any specific type of  
25 entity in that regard. So really, if you have

1 any suggestions or comments on that, we'd love to  
2 hear it.

3 MS. MILLS: So you were just trying to be  
4 inclusive, rather than targeted. Okay.

5 MS. LEE: Yeah, I'll agree with Jeff on  
6 that. We want to -- it's the agricultural  
7 operation that we want to make sure we provide  
8 access for. So if there's an ownership structure  
9 that -- even if it's not common in mainstream,  
10 but it is represented in, we don't want to  
11 exclude them based on that ownership structure of  
12 the operation. And again, working with the folks  
13 like yourself, who are deeply in this community,  
14 you can help us to refine that to make sure that  
15 again, we're inclusive of ownership structures,  
16 and are more focused on the agricultural  
17 community.

18 MR. DODSON: Anything on the lines?

19 Well, of course, I'm sure more questions  
20 will come up down the road. So fortunately,  
21 there is an opportunity to provide written  
22 comment after this workshop is over. So don't  
23 stress. We definitely still want to hear from  
24 you as more questions do come up which,  
25 hopefully, they do.



1           So since that seems to be kind of the  
2 comment that we're going to get at this point in  
3 time, I'll go ahead and move onto kind of the  
4 next steps and where we're looking next.

5           So just so everyone is aware, we do have  
6 a public workshop planned for March 8th, which I  
7 believe is next week. And that's actually going  
8 to be in Bakersfield. It's going to be at the  
9 San Joaquin Air Quality Air Pollution Control  
10 District Office in Bakersfield.

11           And a public notice has been posted for  
12 that, so there's information available on our  
13 website. The link here is provided on the slide,  
14 which is kind of our main program webpage. And  
15 from there you can access upcoming events and  
16 documents. We're going to go ahead and post this  
17 workshop -- or the slide deck for this workshop  
18 as soon as we can. So again, that's where you  
19 can find all that information.

20           We actually have -- we're working on  
21 putting out a posting to announce that you can  
22 also attend our next workshop in the Modesto or  
23 Fresno Office of the San Joaquin Air Valley --  
24 Air Quality District offices. They're going to  
25 be doing a live videoconferencing feature that

1 will allow you to basically attend through  
2 videoconference for the workshop, which is in  
3 Bakersfield, itself.

4           So driving -- I think in the next,  
5 upcoming slide we have directions, a link for the  
6 directions to get to either of those offices.  
7 But essentially, that will allow you to more or  
8 less be there in person if you're in Modesto,  
9 Fresno, or Bakersfield. So we really want to  
10 open that up to as many people as we can. And  
11 that will give us kind of more feedback as we  
12 move forward with the program.

13           I should also mention real quick, too,  
14 please subscribe to our list serve. This can  
15 also be found on our webpage. This is the best  
16 way that you will get e-mail notifications  
17 whenever, you know, documents are posted or  
18 whenever we have an upcoming event posted.  
19 That's really the best way to kind of stay in  
20 touch and be notified whenever something changes,  
21 or moves forward with our program.

22           So as I mentioned before, this is the  
23 address for each of the three offices to the San  
24 Joaquin Valley Air District. Like I said, the  
25 actual workshop itself will be in the Bakersfield

1 office. However, you can video -- you can attend  
2 in person in the Modesto and Fresno offices, and  
3 be able to participate through a live  
4 videoconferencing. And the link in this slide  
5 provides directions to any of those three  
6 offices.

7           So this is some contact information that  
8 might be useful. Due to our workshop coming up  
9 on March 8th, we have a written comment deadline  
10 extended out until March 26th, at 5:00 p.m. So  
11 like I said before, you may have questions or  
12 comments that come up later. You know, when you  
13 get home and you're resting from your long day  
14 and you realize that you have a question, please  
15 go ahead and give us a written comment. We  
16 really are counting on you guys to give us  
17 feedback so we can further develop this program.  
18 It's very important for us to hear from all of  
19 you and, you know, any kind of comments you have  
20 would be very helpful.

21           So when you do have written comments, you  
22 can submit them electronically online via the  
23 link posted here. It's our e-docketing system,  
24 where it gets posted into the public record. And  
25 you can also mail us a copy of your comment, if

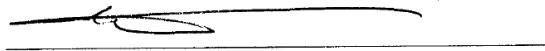


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PETER PETTY  
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Barbara Little  
Certified Transcriber  
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