

**DOCKETED**

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APPEARANCES

Commissioners

Janea Scott, Vice Chair  
Karen Douglas  
Patricia Monahan

Staff Present: (\* Via WebEx)

Drew Bohan, Executive Director  
Kourtney Vaccaro, Chief Counsel  
Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, Acting Public Adviser  
Matthew Layton, Engineering Office Manager  
Cody Goldthrite, Secretariat

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- a. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e), the Energy Commission may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss any of the following matters to which the Energy Commission is a party:
- i. *In the Matter of U.S. Department of Energy (High Level Waste Repository) (Atomic Safety Licensing Board, CAB-04, 63-001-HLW); State of California v. United States Department of Energy (9th Cir. Docket No. 09-71014)*
  - ii. *Communities for a Better Environment and Center for Biological Diversity v. Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, and California State Controller, (Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG13681262)*
  - iii. *State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission v. Electricore, Inc. and ZeroTruck (Sacramento County Superior Court (34-2016-00204586)*
  - iv. *Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., et al. v. United States Department of Energy (Federal District Court, Northern District of California, (17-cv03404)*
  - v. *City of Los Angeles, acting by and through, its Department of Water and Power v. Energy Commission (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BS171477).*
  - vi. *Helping Hand Tools v. California Energy Commission, and Vantage Data Centers LLC. (Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80003026).*
  - vii. *In re: PG&E Corporation and In re: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 19-30088)*

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b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e), the Energy Commission may also discuss any judicial or administrative proceeding that was formally initiated after this agenda was published; or determine whether facts and circumstances exist that warrant the initiation of litigation, or that constitute a significant exposure to litigation against the Commission, which might include.	
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JUNE 12, 2019

10:04 a.m.

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Good morning, everyone. We will begin our June 12th Business Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, good morning and welcome. Item Number 1, our Consent Calendar.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Move consent.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: And do we have any public comment on Consent Calendar?

(No audible response.)

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Seeing none, all those in favor?

(Ayes.)

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0.

All right, next we will do Item 2, the Malburg Generating Station.

MS. VACCARO: Commissioner Scott?

VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yes.

MS. VACCARO: For the record you might want to make note that two of our Commissioners are absent. So when we say a 3-0 vote what we're meaning is because we don't have the other Commissioners here.

1           VICE CHAIR SCOTT:  Indeed.  So as Chief Counsel  
2 has noted we have two Commissioners absent today, so we  
3 have three of us up here on the dais.  So when we say a  
4 motion carries 3-0 that is all of us today.  Okay.

5           Item Number 2, please.

6           MR. ALI:  Good morning, Commissioners.  My name  
7 is Anwar Ali.  I'm the Compliance Project Manager in the  
8 Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division.  
9 With me today is Jared Babula, Staff Council, and Matt  
10 Layton, the Engineering Office Manager.  Also with us today  
11 representing the Project Owner is Scott Galati and Kyle  
12 McCormack.  Also on the phone we have Vicky Lee from the  
13 South Coast Air Quality Management District.

14           Today staff is seeking approval for the Project  
15 Owner's request to modify the Final Commission Decision for  
16 Malburg Generating Station.

17           Malburg is a 134-megawatt natural gas fire  
18 combined cycle located in the City of the Vernon in Los  
19 Angeles County.  It was certified by the Energy Commission  
20 in 2003 and it began commercial operation in 2005.

21           The petition under consideration today would  
22 upgrade physical components of the combustion turbine and  
23 install new software.  However, the operation of the new  
24 turbine upgrade would require acquiring new Title V permit  
25 conditions from South Coast Air Quality Management District

1 and modification to the Energy Commission Conditions of  
2 Certification.

3           This turbine upgrade would increase the  
4 efficiency and the capacity of the facility. As stated in  
5 the staff analysis in March 2018 the staff management  
6 approved replacement of physical components as a  
7 maintenance activity, because it involved just a  
8 replacement of functional equivalent components. However,  
9 this approval dictated that the facility would not upgrade  
10 under enhanced performance capabilities until after the  
11 approval of (indiscernible) and by the Energy Commission.  
12 The software installation and the associated commissioning  
13 activities occurred in May 2019.

14           Staff management approved this software  
15 installation, because of two things. The timing of these  
16 as scheduled out by the Project Owner and second, because  
17 of air quality emissions for the commissioning period would  
18 be less than emissions approved for the original  
19 commissioning.

20           After careful review of the petition staff  
21 concludes the following. The proposed modification would  
22 result in a slight increase in potential air quality  
23 emissions. However, the increased emissions would not have  
24 any significant air quality impacts. Additionally, no  
25 additional mitigation would be required for these increased

1 emissions.

2           The increased efficiency of the capacity would  
3 result in an approximate net increase of 8 megawatts in the  
4 pro-production. (phonetic) The proposed modification would  
5 not result in significant impacts on the environment,  
6 public health and safety. And without option of the new or  
7 revised air quality Conditions of Certification the project  
8 would remain in compliance all of applicable rules. The  
9 proposed modification to air quality Conditions of  
10 Certification reflect the combustion turbine's upgrades and  
11 other modifications to ensure consistency between the Air  
12 District and the Energy Commission Final Decision language.

13           Based upon these facts the staff recommends  
14 approval of the proposed modification to the Final  
15 Commission Decision. I will be available to answer any  
16 questions you have. Thank you.

17           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. We'll now hear  
18 from Applicant.

19           MR. GALATI: Good morning, Madam Chair and  
20 Members of the Commission. We have read the staff  
21 assessment. We agree with the staff assessment's  
22 conclusions and all of the conditions that are being  
23 proposed in there. Just a point of clarification, the  
24 South Coast has actually issued the final permit, so we  
25 won't be coming back for any corrections between -- as

1 sometimes happens with a petition for amendment.

2 So we ask that you go ahead and approve this  
3 petition and make the decision consistent with the South  
4 Coast permit. Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Do we have any  
6 public comment in the room on this matter? Okay. Public  
7 comment on the phone?

8 (No audible response.)

9 All right, Commissioner discussion, please?

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, I just wanted say  
11 that I'm in support of this amendment. I appreciate  
12 staff's thorough analysis and if there are not additional  
13 questions I'll move approval of Item 2.

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Seconded.

15 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

16 (Ayes.)

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
18 you very much.

19 MR. GALATI: Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: We will now move on to Item  
21 Number 3, Bruce A. Wilcox, P.E., please.

22 MR. OWNBY: Good morning, Commissioners. My name  
23 is Adrian Ownby and I'm with the Building Standards Office  
24 in the Efficiency Division.

25 This item is a technical support contract with

1 Bruce Wilcox for up to \$4.5 million over 3 years. This  
2 technical support contract is focused on the development  
3 and implementation of the California Building Energy Code  
4 Compliance software, otherwise known as CBECC.

5 CBECC is used to show compliance with the  
6 building standards. It's also used by staff and  
7 consultants and researchers to evaluate the impact of  
8 proposed measures on the Energy Code.

9 This contract will provide crucial technical  
10 support for both the development and implementation of the  
11 2019 and the 2022 CBECC software. With that I'd like to  
12 request approval of this contract and I'm happy to answer  
13 any questions you might have.

14 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right.

15 I do not have any blue cards here with me, but do  
16 we have public comment in the room? Public comment on the  
17 phone?

18 (No audible response.)

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay, seeing one any  
20 Commissioner discussion?

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No. I'll move this item.

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Seconded.

23 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

24 (Ayes.)

25 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank

17

1 you.

2                   Okay, we will now move on to Item Number 4, the  
3 Office of Planning and Research/Strategic Growth Council.

4                   MS. ANDERSON: Good morning Vice Chair and  
5 Commissioners. My name is Hilarie Anderson. I'm with the  
6 Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection  
7 Division, and here with me today is Tom Gates, our Tribal  
8 Liaison.

9                   I am here today requesting your approval for an  
10 interagency agreement between the California Energy  
11 Commission and the Strategic Growth Council to partner in  
12 the implementation of the Tribal Government Challenge  
13 Program.

14                   The Tribal Government Challenge Program has two  
15 parts. First is a grant-funding opportunity that would  
16 enable tribes within California for planning activities  
17 related to energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy  
18 generation, and climate energy resiliency. A total of \$2  
19 million would be allocated to grants through a competitive  
20 solicitation with a maximum grant award anticipated at  
21 \$250,000.

22                   Second, the partnership would conduct a  
23 competitive solicitation for a statewide gap analysis. The  
24 successful bidder would conduct an analysis to discover  
25 underlying issues related to California tribes' ability to

18

1 adapt to climate change and issues related to energy  
2 access, reliability, and sustainability. The gap analysis  
3 would be for up to \$250,000.

4 This Interagency Agreement is for a total amount  
5 of \$2,350,000. And the Tribal Government Challenge Program  
6 would be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment  
7 Act of 2009, or ARRA.

8 Staff recommends approval of this Interagency  
9 Agreement. Thank you for your consideration and I'm here  
10 for any questions.

11 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

12 I do not have any blue cards up here with me, but  
13 any public comment in the room? And is there anyone from  
14 OPR who would like to speak on this topic? Seeing no, any  
15 public comment on the phone? Also seeing no.

16 (No audible response.)

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay, let's turn to  
18 commissioner discussion.

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, so on this one  
20 I do know some traditional discussion and comments to make.  
21 I'm really excited about this program. This is a  
22 tremendous opportunity to help us partner with tribes and  
23 help facilitate and learn from some of the really  
24 tremendous grass roots potential and energy and desire to  
25 make a difference that's coming from California Native

1 American tribes. We've seen tremendous engagement and  
2 interest in energy from a number of tribal governments that  
3 the Energy Commission has worked with over time and talked  
4 to the last Tribal Energy Summit, for example and had the  
5 opportunity to work with, in a broad number of ways.

6 I'm also very excited to move this program  
7 forward through a partnership with OPR and the Strategic  
8 Growth Council, because of their tremendous expertise in  
9 working with local governments, working on planning issues,  
10 working on delivery of programs that -- especially through  
11 the Strategic Growth Council -- that help foster  
12 sustainability in planning across a broad range of areas.  
13 But that could really benefit from and grow from  
14 (indecipherable) greater engagement with tribes that this  
15 partnership will allow us to facilitate at OPR as well, and  
16 Strategic Growth Council as well.

17 So I really want to thank the Energy Commission  
18 staff for working with extremely hard to move this forward.  
19 It was a multi-divisional team involving in particular  
20 staff division and efficiency. It drew on some of the  
21 tremendous expertise from the ARRA days that we have on  
22 staff and our knowledge of how to move that money.

23 And really this program is evidence to me, and  
24 just shows me some of the benefits of some of the  
25 approaches we did take in ARRA, which was to at least for

1 some of that money put the money out the door in the form  
2 of programs that would be loans that would have a repayment  
3 stream. And it's the repayment stream from one of those  
4 loan programs that is allowing us to do this program.

5 One more comment I'll make. Commissioner  
6 McAllister isn't here. He has been and his office has been  
7 a real partner in moving this program forward. The program  
8 is actually modeled after the local government challenge,  
9 which used the same funds in a prior year and which had  
10 very similar goals aimed at local governments rather than  
11 tribal governments. And so he was very interested in being  
12 able to use the program design and ideas that they came up  
13 with and focus that on tribal governments. And so he's  
14 been a tremendous partner in this as well.

15 So those are my comments. I just wanted to see  
16 if my colleagues would like to speak on this.

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: I had some comments as well.  
18 Thank you, Commissioner Douglas, for your leadership in  
19 this space and to Commissioner McAllister as well with the  
20 local government challenge.

21 I had an opportunity to attend the Tribal Summit  
22 and also the meeting that we had here in Sacramento not so  
23 long ago. The tribes I know are very excited about the  
24 planning grants, which is fantastic. As you all know,  
25 having equity and making sure that all Californians are

1 part of this clear energy transition is so incredibly  
2 important. And we're not just talking the talk, but we're  
3 walking the walk in this space and it's just really  
4 exciting to me to see additional energy planning specific  
5 to the tribes going forward in this way.

6 And I also appreciate the partnership with OPR  
7 and with the Strategic Growth Council because I think all  
8 of our agencies are bringing strength. And we'll have an  
9 opportunity to really learn from one another. And the sum  
10 of the parts is greater than the whole here, so I'm excited  
11 about this one.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, so I only have a  
14 month under my belt at the Commission, so my remarks are  
15 not steeped in the history that my colleagues have of this  
16 program. But I was lucky enough to be briefed by staff and  
17 I was just so impressed with the quality of just the  
18 attentiveness, I think, to the special issues that we face  
19 with tribal governments. And it was just very exciting to  
20 hear how the CEC is really helping not just our work with  
21 the tribes, but across the entire set of California state  
22 agencies that have deepened our understanding about how we  
23 work with independent governments.

24 And it takes a lot of careful thinking and  
25 understanding of some of the issues that tribes face. So

1 yeah, this is something I would just give my wholehearted  
2 endorsement for this program.

3 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Can I get a motion  
4 please?

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Move approval of this  
6 item.

7 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Second.

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. All those in favor?

9 (Ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
11 you so much.

12 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right. Next is Item Number  
14 5, the Cerritos Community College District.

15 MS. HAAS: Good Morning Vice Chair and  
16 Commissioners. I am Tami Haas, Lead over Workforce  
17 Training and Development with the Clean Transportation  
18 Program, also known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel  
19 and Vehicle Technology Program.

20 Staff is seeking approval for an interagency  
21 agreement with Cerritos Community College District for just  
22 over \$1 million. This agreement will fund electric school  
23 bus training for bus operators and maintenance staff.

24 Through Senate Bill 110, the Legislature charged  
25 the Energy Commission with retrofitting and replacing old

1 diesel school buses in disadvantaged and low-income  
2 communities around the state. The Energy Commission is  
3 implementing this charge through its School Bus Replacement  
4 Program.

5           With the appropriation of \$75 million,  
6 approximately 200 buses were identified for electric  
7 replacements statewide. The transition from diesel to  
8 electric bus technology creates a training need for bus  
9 operators and maintenance staff in the awarded school  
10 districts, county offices of education, and joint power  
11 authorities.

12           The Contractor will provide electric school bus  
13 operator and technician training to faculty from up to nine  
14 community colleges around the state, who will then  
15 facilitate the training of fleet technicians and bus  
16 operators employed by all the school districts, etcetera,  
17 who are awarded these electric buses.

18           The delivery of training will be timed with the  
19 delivery of the electric buses, which is scheduled for  
20 rollout between late 2019 and September 2022.

21           Thank you for your consideration of this item,  
22 and I have Jannet Malig from the Cerritos Community College  
23 District who would like to offer some comments. Thank you.

24           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

25           Janet, please come up. Good morning.

1 MS. MALIG: Good morning. On behalf of Cerritos  
2 College and the California Community College system we want  
3 to say thank you for this opportunity to be part of the  
4 workforce development and the reductions of emissions and  
5 clean fuel technology.

6 We really think that we have a great opportunity,  
7 especially in disadvantaged communities to bring forth a  
8 new technology and trained work force for this, so thank  
9 you very much.

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

11 Do we have any -- I don't have any blue cards,  
12 but do we have public comment in the room? Public comment  
13 on the phone? Seeing none, let's turn to Commissioner  
14 discussion.

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, I'd like to say a  
16 few words about this program. So I think anybody with kids  
17 who ride school buses know that it's important, like the  
18 safeguarding of our children's health is the most important  
19 thing that we have. It's our greatest legacy. And kids  
20 riding diesel school buses, especially long distances are  
21 exposed to harmful pollutants that penetrate deep into the  
22 lungs and reduce the longevity of their lives. And that's  
23 such a profound horrible thing to consider that as we're  
24 putting our kids on these diesel school buses so that go  
25 safety to school, they're being exposed to these harmful

1 pollutants.

2           So this program is one of these -- just you feel  
3 good, it brings tears to my eyes in terms of like this is  
4 great for kids' health. And yet school districts are  
5 struggling with basic needs. So how are we foisting this  
6 new technology on them without giving them the support that  
7 they need to make sure they understand how to charge these  
8 vehicles and what it looks like to maintain these vehicles.

9           So I just want say that I think this program is a  
10 great supplement to the investments that we and ARB are  
11 making on replacing diesel school buses with clean electric  
12 buses. And it's what we're going to need a lot more of in  
13 terms of if we want to electrify transportation more  
14 broadly there's a lot of workforce training that has to  
15 accompany that. So I just really strongly endorse this  
16 investment. Thank you.

17           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yeah, I might just add I'm  
18 also very excited about this project. Jannet, thank you for  
19 being here, and Tami for overseeing this; the enthusiasm  
20 and engagement that you bring to the program in making sure  
21 that there's great workforce training. We also have our  
22 terrific high school programs. I've had a chance to go to  
23 about five or six high schools with Dianna and Tami. And  
24 really just see this happening on the ground. People  
25 getting excited about how to work on electric vehicles and

26

1 what kind of things do you need to learn. It's just an  
2 incredibly important component. So I will ask for a motion  
3 please.

4 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I motion to support.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Moved to approve.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Move to approve, sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

9 (Ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
11 you.

12 MS. HAAS: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, we will now move on  
14 to Item Number 6, the Outreach Education and Collaborative  
15 Planning for California's Central Valley, GFO-18-603,  
16 please.

17 MS. EJLALMANESHAN: Good morning Vice Chair and  
18 good morning Commissioners. My name is Susan Ejlalmaneshan  
19 with the Fuels and Transportation Division. Staff is  
20 seeking approval of two projects that were proposed for  
21 funding through our Outreach, Education & Collaboration in  
22 Central Valley Solicitation under the Clean Transportation  
23 Program, also known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuels  
24 and Vehicle Technology Program.

25 Under this solicitation, we initially anticipated

27

1 providing up to \$1 million for projects that will  
2 accelerate the rate of adoption of alternative fuels and  
3 advanced technologies in the Central Valley.

4           The first agreement is with Fresno Metro Black  
5 Chamber Foundation for about \$615,000 to support the rapid  
6 growth of light-duty electric vehicles in the San Joaquin  
7 Valley. This agreement will focus on three areas.

8           First, this agreement will expand community-based  
9 engagement and marketing of PEV car sharing and ridesharing  
10 projects within the Valley. These projects target 11  
11 disadvantaged communities in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern  
12 counties. Once successful, these projects can be  
13 replicated for other communities.

14           Second, this agreement's PEV marketing and  
15 education campaign aims to break down stereotypes and false  
16 impressions regarding PEVs. It will address the operation  
17 of PEVs, the economic benefits of owning a PEV, and the  
18 availability of clean vehicle incentives.

19           Third, and finally, this agreement will provide  
20 hands-on interactions with PEVs as well as training and  
21 employment for students as EV Ambassadors. Fresno Metro  
22 Black Chamber intends to leverage its Central Valley  
23 Business Diversity Partnership to incorporate involvement  
24 of African American, Latino, and Southeast Asian  
25 communities.

1           The next agreement is with Gladstein Neandross &  
2 Associates for nearly \$700,000 to support the deployment of  
3 clean medium and heavy-duty transportation in the Central  
4 Valley. In contrast to the previous agreement, this  
5 agreement focuses on outreach to commercial fleets.

6           First, this agreement will provide technical  
7 assistance hotlines to answer questions regarding clean  
8 transportation incentives, technology, infrastructure, and  
9 best practices.

10           Second, the recipient will host workshops and  
11 webinars that provide information about clean vehicles and  
12 programs as well as case specific alternative fuel  
13 feasibility, emission reduction calculations, and  
14 infrastructure assessments.

15           Third, this agreement will provide one-on-one  
16 meetings with fleet operators to address operator-specific  
17 questions and barriers to increase their confidence in the  
18 technology.

19           Finally, the agreement will include traveling  
20 teachers and a teacher training program that will develop,  
21 distribute and implement air quality and clean  
22 transportation workshops for K-5 students.

23           Staff is seeking approval of both grant awards  
24 for Item Number 6.

25           I would note that Ms. Tara Lynn Gray from Fresno

1 Metro Black Chamber is here and also a representative from  
2 Gladstein Neandross & Associates is on the phone to provide  
3 remarks and answer questions. Thank you for your  
4 consideration of these items.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you. So let us  
6 start in the room. Ms. Gray, did you have any comment  
7 you'd like to make?

8 MS. GRAY: Good morning. My greatest and first  
9 comment is thank you very much. As an advocate for  
10 disadvantaged communities and the businesses that are  
11 growing in in those communities we feel that this move not  
12 only accomplishes the objectives of the Commission, but  
13 goes a very, very long way in supporting equity in grant  
14 making, supporting equity in small business development and  
15 equity in job creation. We are thrilled about this award  
16 and can't thank you enough for the opportunity.

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.  
18 Do we have any other public comment in the room?  
19 (No audible response.)

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay and then I know that we  
21 have Mr. Terreri on the phone. Will you open his line,  
22 please. Mr. Terreri, we are ready for you.

23 MR. TERRERI: Well, thank you. Good morning  
24 Madam Chair and the Commission. On behalf of GNA we'd like  
25 to say thank you for the opportunity with this proposal and

1 appreciate the opportunity to support commercial fleet  
2 operators and particularly the small fleet operators in  
3 adopting a transportation solution across the Central  
4 Valley.

5           It's crucial work we're very grateful to begin.  
6 Thank you.

7           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Do we have any  
8 other public comment on the phone? Okay, I'm seeing no, so  
9 let's turn to Commissioner discussion.

10           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, I'll start. First I  
11 want to say that both of these proposals again are dealing  
12 with this issue of fairness and equity as we clean up our  
13 transportation system. I want to talk for a second about  
14 the first one, which I think is really groundbreaking and  
15 also risky. Like we don't know what we're doing. I don't  
16 mean to be critical; I just mean this is new territory.  
17 And there are barriers to electrification. There are  
18 barriers to -- in terms of not everybody can afford to own  
19 a vehicle. How do we share these clean vehicles in an  
20 effective way, spread the benefits of transportation  
21 electrification to all communities?

22           I just want to say thank you to the Fresno Metro  
23 Black Chamber Foundation for being visionary and taking on  
24 this very challenging area.

25           I think we should -- we need to try new frontiers

1 in this space. We need to take risks. And so I just give  
2 kudos to you and your team for being visionary in this  
3 space

4 About the GNA proposal around medium and heavy-  
5 duty fleet electrification, again this is about cleaning up  
6 the dirtiest trucks on the road. They're a very small  
7 share of our actual vehicles on the road, but they're a big  
8 share of diesel particulate matter, a big share of nitrogen  
9 oxide emissions that cause smog forming pollution to form  
10 and also cause small particles to form. So electrifying  
11 and cleaning up our heavy-duty fleet is critically  
12 important to public health.

13 So both of these proposals I think are really  
14 strong. And thanks to staff and to our grantee for  
15 proposing these projects.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: I would just add it's been  
17 really exciting to see this come together. We spent some  
18 time thinking through like what would we like to do in the  
19 Central Valley. It makes sense to do projects like this in  
20 the Central Valley, because it's one of the areas in this  
21 state that is hardest hit by air pollution and others. And  
22 also really thinking through what do we need to do to make  
23 sure communities across our Central Valley are part of this  
24 again electric transformation into electric transportation.

25 And so I love that we got a light-duty component,

1 a medium duty and heavy-duty component. And I'm excited to  
2 see how these come along, so I will ask for a motion  
3 please.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I'll let Commissioner  
5 Monahan make the motion, but I just wanted to pile on here  
6 very briefly and say that I was really pleased to see this  
7 solicitation targeted at the Central Valley as well. And I  
8 think in some ways similarly to the tribal grants that we  
9 just looked at, although they're not the same. It's  
10 wherever we have an opportunity to tap into the people and  
11 communities that we want to reach who are organizing and  
12 who are looking for solutions and trying to generate local  
13 strategies and solutions that will help further all of our  
14 goals it's just exciting to be able to do that. So I'm  
15 really pleased to see this.

16 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I'm going to learn from my  
17 past mistake. I move to approve --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Item 6, say "Item 6."

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Item 6, apparently I'm not  
20 learning from mistakes. (Laughter.)

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

22 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

23 (Ayes.)

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
25 you.

1 MS. EJJALMANESHAN: Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay, we are now onto Item  
3 Number 7, Zero Emission Vehicle and Zero Emission Vehicle  
4 Infrastructure Manufacturing GFO-18-605.

5 MR. RILLERA: Good morning Vice-Chair and  
6 Commissioners. My name is Larry Rillera. I am staff with  
7 the Fuels and Transportation Division. I'm here to present  
8 Item Number 7. All three agreements in this item are  
9 funded through the Clean Transportation Program, also known  
10 as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle  
11 Technology Program.

12 In December of 2018, the Energy Commission  
13 released a solicitation for zero-emission vehicle and zero-  
14 emission vehicle infrastructure manufacturing. The intent  
15 of the solicitation was to develop and expand ZEV supply  
16 chains in California.

17 The solicitation offered almost \$10 million for  
18 two categories of projects: Category A was for projects  
19 that manufacture ZEVs and ZEV components. Category B was  
20 for projects that manufacture ZEV infrastructure such as  
21 electric vehicle chargers and hydrogen refueling station  
22 equipment. Today, staff will present agreements for  
23 Category A projects.

24 Transportation Power is proposed for \$1.1 million  
25 in funding. The agreement with Transportation Power

1 proposes to upgrade manufacturing capabilities to improve  
2 the production of electric power trains, motor assemblies,  
3 and battery packs for heavy-duty all-electric trucks. The  
4 project will leverage almost \$1.5 million in private  
5 investment that will create jobs while increasing the  
6 efficiency of their manufacturing operations.

7           Proterra is proposed for \$1.8 million in funding.  
8 The agreement with Proterra proposes to install  
9 manufacturing equipment to help scale the production of  
10 all-electric transit buses at their manufacturing facility  
11 in the City of Industry. The project will leverage almost  
12 \$2 million in private investment that will nearly double  
13 production.

14           Zero Motorcycles is proposed for \$1.8 million in  
15 funding. The agreement with Zero Motorcycles proposes to  
16 install manufacturing equipment, and implement a series of  
17 manufacturing changes, over the next two model years  
18 including on-shoring motor manufacturing in the City of  
19 Scotts Valley. The project will leverage almost \$2 million  
20 in private investment that will increase manufacturing  
21 efficiency and reduce production costs.

22           Staff is also recommending approval of staff's  
23 determination that each of the three projects noted are  
24 exempt from CEQA.

25           Staff would note that representatives from each

1 of the companies are present to provide remarks and answer  
2 any questions.

3 Thank you in advance for consideration of these  
4 items.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

6 All right, so I do have some blue cards up here  
7 with me. First, I have Antonio Montez and he'll be  
8 followed by Kent Leacock.

9 MR. MONTEZ: Good morning, Commissioners. I'm  
10 Antonio Montez, a Regional Product Manager for  
11 Transportation Power. And I'd like to take this  
12 opportunity to say thank you to the Energy Commission and  
13 to express our appreciation for the Commission's continuing  
14 support. Our first Commission-funded electric refuse truck  
15 will be entering service in days here in the Sacramento  
16 area.

17 Since we submitted our grant proposal earlier  
18 this year our estimated demand for our EV drive systems by  
19 the year 2022, which is a year following the end of the  
20 grant, has increased from 300 per year to more than 1,000.  
21 This new grant is a big part of our plans to expand our  
22 California manufacturing capacity to meet this demand.  
23 Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

25 I have Kent Leacock, followed by Jay Friedland.

1 MR. LEACOCK: Good morning Vice Chair Scott,  
2 Commissioner Douglas and newly-minted Commissioner Monahan.  
3 My name is Kent Leacock and I'm a Senior Director for  
4 Government Relations and Public Policy for Proterra. On  
5 behalf of the Proterra team, we would like to thank all of  
6 you, and the Energy Commission staff, for the most recent  
7 Notice of Proposed Award for the scaling of zero emission  
8 vehicle manufacturing in California project that will help  
9 optimize the production of zero emission buses at our  
10 manufacturing facility in the City of Industry.

11 Proterra is a major California success story.  
12 With the strong support from the Energy Commission, we  
13 moved our corporate headquarters to California in 2015 and  
14 now manufacture our own battery modules and packs at our  
15 headquarters in Burlingame. And the Energy Commission also  
16 helped make possible building our zero emission public  
17 transit buses here in California at our manufacturing  
18 facility in the City of Industry.

19 We greatly appreciate the Commission's initial  
20 support and partnership to help establish our manufacturing  
21 facilities in California. Our first project, working with  
22 the Commission, helped enable us to sell more than 700  
23 buses to more than 90 fleet operators across 41 states and  
24 provinces in the United States and Canada.

25 Having a presence in California was crucial to

1 that success. The buses built have logged over 8 million  
2 service miles and displaced over 40 million pounds of  
3 tailpipe emissions as well as established new opportunities  
4 for tech transfer to other heavy-duty sectors, including  
5 school buses.

6 Today's project will utilize the lessons learned  
7 from operating our existing manufacturing facilities and  
8 will improve manufacturing efficiency, productivity and  
9 safety to meet the growing demand for zero emission buses  
10 in California.

11 The project will deploy state-of-the-art  
12 equipment and accelerate production, improve quality,  
13 safety, lower production costs and create good living wage  
14 jobs within the San Gabriel Valley.

15 Thank you again for the continued partnership to  
16 expand zero emission heavy-duty vehicle manufacturing in  
17 California that will help accelerate the deployment of  
18 those vehicles as well as increase jobs and economic  
19 opportunities for the state.

20 We look forward to executing another successful  
21 project together and would love to have, at the completion  
22 of this project, have the Commissioners come down and see  
23 the factory in its newest form. Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right. Thank you.

25 I have Jay Friedland, please.

1           MR. FRIEDLAND: Good morning Vice Chair, Douglas,  
2 Commissioner Scott and welcome Commissioner Monahan. I'm  
3 here representing -- I'm Jay Friedland I'm here  
4 representing Zero Motorcycles today.

5           First again we also want to thank you for your  
6 continued support of our efforts. And this is a  
7 particularly exciting grant for us, because as Commissioner  
8 Scott got to see a couple of years ago, one of our goals is  
9 to bring back our motor manufacturing from sort of the  
10 disparate global supply chain, but primarily China, and  
11 bring it back to the United States. And we're going to be  
12 able to do that with this grant. So we're very, very  
13 excited about that.

14           And I also want to thank staff for the hard work  
15 that they've done in putting this together. And the whole  
16 importance of the ARFVTP program, because now in its 11th  
17 year it really has allowed companies like ours to grow and  
18 manufacture in the state of California. And now we're the  
19 second largest manufacturer of electric vehicles in the  
20 State of California, of course behind Tesla.

21           It's also really important because as Larry was  
22 saying, the supply chains even for us, a relatively small  
23 manufacturer still, and the supply chain issues remain a  
24 constant challenge. And particularly with the current  
25 environment of tariffs and where can you source from where,

1 bring this manufacturing to California is critical.

2 I also want to just mention that some people ask,  
3 "Well, why are motorcycles important in this whole  
4 transportation scheme?" And the key thing here is that the  
5 fleet of motorcycles that is on the road today in  
6 California actually provides 16 percent more pollution than  
7 the fleet of light-duty vehicles, of cars. And that's  
8 because cars have got tremendously clean over time.

9 And the ARB is working on this. They're actually  
10 going to be proposing regulations next year. But in the  
11 meantime getting zero emission motorcycles is very  
12 important. And there are more companies that are coming  
13 along that are doing this.

14 So again, we really thank you for your leadership  
15 on this and just really appreciate all of your support.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

17 Do I have any other public comment in the room?

18 (No audible response.)

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right. I have one public  
20 comment on the phone. It is Marc Harel from AutoElectric.

21 MR. HAREL: Hello, there. I appreciate the  
22 opportunity to speak. I'm calling from overseas. I hope  
23 everyone hears me well.

24 I'm a native Californian living and working in  
25 Israel and since 2013 I've been working with Zero

1 Motorcycles and that relationship ended most recently after  
2 a number of concerns were expressed or had been expressed  
3 over the past several years, regarding their actions. In  
4 particular a boycott of the general market (indiscernible)  
5 coming from this market both for consumers, but more  
6 specifically for these redundant (phonetic) and related  
7 entities.

8           And in reviewing this and also speaking with  
9 dealers and distributors throughout the United States and  
10 Europe we found that Zero Motorcycles is in breach of a  
11 number of California laws, corporation and California  
12 Franchise Investment Law and Relations Act, a number of  
13 Vehicle Code Section 3000, 117000, 11726, 11703, 23  
14 (indiscernible) California Anti-VDS (phonetic) legislation  
15 enacted in 2016 and AB 2844.

16           We want to urge the staff to further investigate  
17 (indiscernible) Zero Motorcycles (indiscernible) actions  
18 and most particularly their compliance with California law  
19 before providing such a generous grant. We think that any  
20 company receiving this level of funding from the state  
21 should be in full compliance with the laws in the State of  
22 California.

23           Thank you for your time.

24           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

25           Let me turn back to staff to ask if we've done

1 the due diligence in that space, please.

2 MR. RILLERA: Thank you Vice Chair. With this  
3 particular solicitation, we did ramp up due diligence  
4 conduct for the applicants. In previous years there's been  
5 a self-certification, some basic business presence  
6 verification and certification, but this year we invoked a  
7 third-party analysis on some financials and their business  
8 presence.

9 And with respect to the specific discussion right  
10 now, there was no discovery of anything outstanding. But  
11 know that all the applicants were treated equally with  
12 respect to increased due diligence on their business and  
13 their financial and their market performance.

14 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Do we have any  
15 other public comment on the phone?

16 (No audible response.)

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Seeing none let me turn to  
18 Commissioner discussion please.

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Sure. I'll start. Well,  
20 I know I sound like a broken record, but I just want to say  
21 that the focus on making sure that California is a leader  
22 on advancing zero emission technologies, and ensuring that  
23 these technologies then diffuse into the marketplace and  
24 Californians directly benefit from the cleaner air. And I  
25 would say the improvement in actual mobility that these

1 technologies can provide.

2           The first one in terms of refuse haulers or I  
3 should say refuse haulers, transit buses and school buses  
4 are all vehicles that are used within urban areas, stop-  
5 and-go cycle where community residents are exposed to  
6 harmful pollutants from these vehicles. So investing in  
7 technologies that help California advance cleaner vehicles  
8 and fuels and benefit all Californians is just really where  
9 we should be putting our money with the Clean  
10 Transportation Program.

11           On the motorcycle side I can say I'm a bicycler  
12 and anybody that's a bicycler and has biked on roads where  
13 there's tons of motorcycles realizes that those pollutants  
14 are bad. I actually have to cover my nose every time a  
15 motorcycle passes because of all the pollutants that come  
16 out. So I think it's a great vehicle to electrify and it  
17 could make a big difference for Californians, including  
18 bikers.

19           So I just want to congratulate Larry and the  
20 staff for pulling these together. I think that we should  
21 be moving forward in making sure that California is a  
22 leader on both the technology development and the  
23 technology diffusion of zero emission vehicles and fuels.

24           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Do you have comments?

25           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I do. I'll just add

1 briefly that I'm also very supportive of this. I like  
2 seeing that for some of these technologies that California  
3 has really helped to incubate that we're seeing obviously a  
4 lot of California deployment of the technologies, but some  
5 California manufacturing of the technologies as well. And  
6 I think we've got a really thriving ecosystem here in terms  
7 of people who really understand how to develop very  
8 advanced technologies and pull them together. It's great  
9 that we can pull that into production as well.

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yeah I'd just like to add.  
11 Thanks for having done the due diligence on these projects.  
12 That's really important. Again, I'm excited about these as  
13 well.

14 The first round of these types of grants that the  
15 Commission did a few years ago helped really establish the  
16 industry here in California and helped really get it going.  
17 And now it's exciting to have kind of the second round of  
18 grants as we're working to expand those industries and  
19 build on them and make them even stronger and more  
20 successful.

21 So I am in support of these grants as well. So  
22 let me ask for a motion please.

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Items  
24 7a, b and c.

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: That's like an A plus

1 mode. (Laughter.)

2 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, all those in favor?

3 (Ayes.)

4 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: This motion carries 3-0.

5 Thank you.

6 Okay. We will now move on to Item Number 8, the  
7 Rialto Bioenergy Facility, LLC, please.

8 MR. NGUYEN: Good Morning Vice Chair and  
9 Commissioners.

10 My name is Hieu Nguyen with the Fuels and  
11 Transportation Division. Today staff is seeking approval  
12 of one project, Rialto Bioenergy Facility LLC.

13 The project was proposed for funding under the  
14 Community-Scale and Commercial-Scale Biofuels Production  
15 Solicitation released by the Clean Transportation Program  
16 also known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and  
17 Vehicle Technology Program. This solicitation provided  
18 over \$19 million in funding for projects that increase the  
19 instate production of low carbon biofuels at new or  
20 existing production facilities.

21 The agreement with Rialto Bioenergy is for about  
22 \$3 million to design, build, and commission phase two of  
23 its biomethane facility in Rialto, California. When fully  
24 operational, the upgraded facility will convert food waste  
25 and bio-solids diverted from landfills into 2.5 million

1 diesel gallon equivalents of renewable natural gas with a  
2 carbon intensity of -187gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ. The fuel will be used in  
3 waste collection and transport vehicles operated by Waste  
4 Management across the greater Los Angeles metropolitan  
5 area.

6 Staff is also recommending approval of the CEQA  
7 findings and a statement of overriding  
8 considerations. Staff has reviewed and considered the lead  
9 agency's CEQA documents and determined that the proposed  
10 project would not result in any new environmental impacts  
11 than those already considered by their lead agency.

12 Staff has also determined that the mitigation  
13 measures identified will eliminate or mitigate any  
14 significant impacts associated with the project to less  
15 than significant levels except for air quality  
16 impacts. For air quality impacts, staff has determined  
17 that the economic, legal, social, and technological  
18 benefits of the project outweigh the significant  
19 unavoidable and un-mitigatable environmental  
20 impacts. These benefits include revitalizing an existing  
21 non-operational industrial site, creating economic  
22 opportunities, and reducing regional greenhouse gas  
23 emissions in a high disadvantaged community.

24 For this agreement, staff is seeking your  
25 adoption of the CEQA findings and approval of the grant

1 award in Item 8.

2 Thank you for your consideration. Dr. Andrew  
3 Dale for Rialto Bioenergy Facility, LLC is on the phone to  
4 answer any questions you may have.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Great. Thank you.

6 I don't have any blue cards. Do we have any  
7 public comment in the room? Okay, let's now turn to a  
8 public comment on the phone with Dr. Dale, please.

9 DR. DALE: Thank you. We want to thank you  
10 Commissioners. We just want to appreciate and say the CEC  
11 has funded several other grants for our facility in Rialto.  
12 And with this additional grant, we'll be able to expand our  
13 RNG capacity about 40 percent, so up to 120,000 cubic feet  
14 a day from 80,000 cubic feet a day, which we are designed  
15 at right now. And we really appreciate the funding and  
16 staff's input in developing this work and reviewing our  
17 project and providing the support for this RNG in the LA  
18 Basin South Coast Air District. Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

20 Any other public comments on the phone? Okay,  
21 seeing none let's turn to Commissioner, discussion please.

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: So this is -- I think with  
23 this facility, and in using waste as a form of fuel in a  
24 sustainable way and ensuring that the vehicles and the  
25 fuels are paired, so we have waste management ready to take

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1 the renewable natural gas and use it immediately. It's  
2 really, I think, a great project in terms of helping reduce  
3 emissions right now from the diesel fleet. You know, a  
4 conversion from -- we have the vehicles today for natural  
5 gas on the electric side, we don't have the vehicles yet.

6 And so this is a way in the near-term to make  
7 sure that California is continuing to make progress in  
8 reducing harmful pollution and reducing greenhouse gases  
9 and setting the stage over the longer term for transition  
10 to zero emission. So these near zero emission vehicles  
11 really are great solutions to help communities today that  
12 are bearing the disproportionate impacts of air pollution.

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Is there a comment?

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I'll just say I'm strongly  
15 in support of this as well.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. May I get a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 8.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

20 (Ayes.)

21 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
23 you.

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. We will now go on to  
25 Item Number 9, which is Demonstration-Scale Biofuels

1 Production Facilities, GFO-18-602, please.

2 MR. NGUYEN: Hello again, Commissioners. Hieu  
3 Nguyen with the Fuels and Transportation Division. Items  
4 9a and 9b are for two projects proposed for funding through  
5 our most recent Demonstration-Scale Biofuels Production  
6 Solicitation.

7 This solicitation provided a little over \$12  
8 million in funding for projects that would prove an  
9 innovative technology or process in biofuels production at  
10 a demonstration-scale level. The following two projects  
11 represent the last two out of the five total projects  
12 awarded under this solicitation.

13 The first item is an agreement with Oberon Fuels  
14 for nearly \$3 million dollars to expand their pilot  
15 production plant for dimethyl ether or DME in Brawley,  
16 California. The project proposes to achieve production of  
17 830,000 diesel gallon equivalents of fuel per year and will  
18 utilize renewable methanol converted from wood waste pulp  
19 to be processed into DME fuel with an approximate carbon  
20 intensity of 21.6 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ. The fuel will also be used to  
21 further support vehicle testing of DME in heavy-duty  
22 trucks. The project will create 11 jobs, in an area of  
23 high unemployment. In comparison to California's 4 percent  
24 unemployment rate, the Imperial Valley currently has an  
25 unemployment rate of 16 percent.

1 Oberon's dimethyl ether plant was evaluated by  
2 the lead agency, the Imperial County Planning and  
3 Development Services Department, which adopted an Initial  
4 Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and conducted  
5 additional review for the plant modifications.

6 Commission staff determined that this project  
7 causes no new significant or substantially more severe  
8 environmental impacts beyond those already considered and  
9 mitigated by the lead agency.

10 The second item is for an agreement with  
11 Technikon LLC for about \$1 million to demonstrate their  
12 Hyper-Philic anaerobic digestion technology, which is an  
13 innovative technology that will convert green waste at the  
14 South Area Transfer Station, located in Sacramento,  
15 California, into renewable natural gas. The traditional  
16 anaerobic digestion process typically converts waste in a  
17 28-to-30 day cycle period. This process is innovative as  
18 it can convert the waste in a 3-to-5 day cycle period,  
19 greatly increasing the amount of fuel produced per  
20 year. At full demonstration-scale, this facility will  
21 produce about a 17,000 diesel gallon equivalent of RNG  
22 annually with a carbon intensity of -120 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ.

23 The project will create two jobs dedicated to the  
24 facility's operations. The project will include the  
25 addition of an RNG refueling station onsite.

1           Staff is seeking adoption of the CEQA findings  
2 and approval of both grant awards for Items 9a and 9b.  
3 Thank you for your consideration.

4           Dr. Rebecca Boudreaux, President of Oberon Fuels  
5 is here and would like to provide a comment. And George  
6 Crandell with Technikon is here and is available to answer  
7 any questions that you may have.

8           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Please come on up.

9           DR. BOUDREAUX: Good morning. I'm Rebecca  
10 Boudreaux, President of Oberon Fuels. And I just want to  
11 take this opportunity to thank the California Energy  
12 Commission for including us in the Notice of Proposed  
13 Awards in January. We appreciate the hard work of the CEC  
14 staff as we move through the CEQA analysis. And we thank  
15 Commissioner Monahan for taking time during a very busy  
16 transition period to meet with our team last month. And  
17 talk about not only this project of renewable DME that  
18 scaling up of our pilot (indiscernible) demo phase, but  
19 also talking about how DME fits in this pathway to zero  
20 emission mobility as the state moves to zero emission  
21 vehicles.

22           So I'm here to answer any questions you may have  
23 and thank you again for the opportunity.

24           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

25           And Dr. Crandell, did you want to say something

1 or just here for questions?

2 DR. CRANDELL: No. I'm just here and available  
3 for questions.

4 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Terrific.

5 Do we have any other public comment here in the  
6 room? Okay. How about public comment on the phone?  
7 Seeing none, let's turn to the Commissioner discussion.

8 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yes, let me start. First  
9 off, let me talk a little bit about Oberon. Last month,  
10 when I had I think a week under my belt, and this proposal  
11 came up for discussion, I needed to time to think about it.  
12 I didn't have any education around DME and so I wanted to  
13 just express my gratefulness to Dr. Boudreaux and her team  
14 for coming and meeting with us. We met on May 22nd and  
15 walked through a series of questions. Dr. Boudreaux  
16 provided this excellent briefing paper on renewable DME.

17 And this is a case again where I think California  
18 and Oberon Fuels are taking a risk and really looking for  
19 creative, out-of-the-box solutions for our greenhouse gas  
20 and air quality problems. And I think that for me it was  
21 really heartening to see how Oberon Fuels is taking a very  
22 visionary and ambitious approach in looking for solutions  
23 that are again available today to deal with the problems  
24 that we have today.

25 So it was a real education for me. And I look

1 forward to visiting the facility. I've learned that if you  
2 visit the facility in the dead of summer you get extra  
3 points for ambitiousness. (Laughter.) So I just want to  
4 tell my fellow Commissioners that this is something that I  
5 really heartily endorse. And I just want to say that I  
6 appreciate that my holding off on this item was unusual and  
7 did give me a chance to -- but it really was helpful to me.  
8 And I needed that extra time.

9           So let me talk for a second about Rialto. Again,  
10 this is another example where we have an opportunity  
11 immediately to -- well not immediately -- but to improve  
12 our biofuel processing timeline, which could be really  
13 critical if we're able to reduce the amount of time needed  
14 to produce a low-carbon biofuel.

15           So again, we need to invest in solutions that  
16 really help us over the long-term scale up and help  
17 California be a leader in clean energy production.

18           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yeah, I will just. I think  
19 that this is really important. I'm glad you had the time  
20 to take time to take a look at. I really wanted to support  
21 you in getting the information that you need.

22           I think, as we transition to cleaner  
23 transportation, which we all know is incredibly important  
24 in California to meet our greenhouse gas goals and to meet  
25 our clean air standards as well we've got a low-carbon fuel

1 standard here in California. And having some instate  
2 production of these low-carbon fuels I think makes a lot of  
3 sense. We have a lot of vehicles that despite having great  
4 zero emission options out there it's going to take some  
5 time to transition the fleet. So putting in cleaner fuels  
6 right now I think matters, especially to people on the air  
7 quality side who are breathing air that's unhealthy right  
8 now. So I am supportive of these projects as well. I  
9 don't know if Commissioner Douglas? Okay. May I have a  
10 motion?

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 8.

12 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: No, 9

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: 9, I (indiscernible) I'm  
14 going to have it all day. (Laughter.)

15 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

17 (Ayes.)

18 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay, we will now move on to  
22 Item Number 10, which is Renewable Energy for Agriculture  
23 Program, GFO-18-401.

24 MR. DODSON: All right. Good Morning Vice-Chair  
25 and Commissioners. My name is Geoffrey Dodson, and I'm

1 representing the Renewable Energy Division. I work in our  
2 Incentive Office where we administer incentive programs  
3 that support renewable energy projects, including the  
4 Renewable Energy for Agriculture Grant Program, known by  
5 the acronym REAP. So we are here to ask for your support  
6 to approve 41 proposed grant agreements resulting from our  
7 program's first grant funding opportunity, which was  
8 released in January 2019.

9           While you're considering this decision, we wanted  
10 to take the opportunity briefly to share a little bit about  
11 the program and to recognize some of the key players both  
12 in and outside of the Energy Commission that were  
13 instrumental and that contributed to the success of our  
14 program.

15           Not long ago, a \$6 million line item in the  
16 budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 trickled down to our  
17 office with a simple mandate: create a grant program that  
18 would support the installation of renewable energy  
19 development projects in the agriculture sector. Followed by  
20 an additional \$4 million in the following years' budget,  
21 the program had \$10 million or \$9.5 million in available  
22 award funding.

23           The funding came from the Greenhouse Gas  
24 Reduction Fund, and the program would be part of California  
25 Climate Investments, a statewide effort that invests

1 billions across the State of California with a focus on  
2 reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the  
3 economy, and protecting public health and the environment,  
4 especially in disadvantaged communities and low-income  
5 communities.

6 (Brief pause to fix slide presentation.)

7 So anyways, this presented a unique opportunity  
8 for us. We wanted to stretch our relatively small amount  
9 in program funding as far as we could, and aim to reach  
10 agriculture operations of all sizes. So this caused us to  
11 design a streamlined grant application and funding program  
12 that was tailored to the agriculture community.

13 The first step involved learning more about the  
14 needs of the agricultural community. With the help of our  
15 colleagues in the Public Advisers Office, our partners at  
16 other state departments and Karen Mills at the Farm Bureau,  
17 we engaged in outreach efforts and workshops in  
18 agricultural hotbeds to gather feedback and develop a  
19 program that would serve both the needs of the agricultural  
20 communities and state goals. We also participated in the  
21 Tribal Energy Summit to engage with tribal communities.

22 During this time, we also brainstormed with our  
23 internal offices: the Contracts, Grants and Loans Office,  
24 our Legal Office, and the Accounting Office, to identify  
25 efficiencies that could be made to the traditional grant

1 application process, which would be necessary to encourage  
2 a busy farmer from a small family-owned operation in San  
3 Joaquin County to apply for a small \$25,000 grant to  
4 install a small solar PV system that would power their  
5 agricultural pump, to highlight the example of one of our  
6 awardees presented today.

7           So what came out of this process was a set of  
8 program guidelines that was adopted by the Commission in  
9 late 2018, which set the stage for our first grant funding  
10 opportunity, which was released earlier this year in  
11 January.

12           The program offered the ability to fund  
13 additional equipment that would be powered by this newly  
14 installed renewable energy generation technology. This  
15 includes EV charging, battery storage and a new electric  
16 pump as long as it replaces a diesel pump.

17           After the release of our grant funding  
18 opportunity in January, we hosted multiple application  
19 workshops throughout the state providing direct assistance  
20 to grantees in the grant application process.

21           Following the application deadline, we received  
22 98 applications, collectively requesting nearly \$20 million  
23 in grant awards and offering over \$11 million in optional  
24 match funding. We were significantly over-subscribed and  
25 scored the applications to identify the most competitive

1 project proposals to award funding to.

2 Our Notice of Proposed Award, which was released  
3 in April, awarded all of the available \$9.5 million in  
4 funding across 45 project proposals. Of the 45 proposed  
5 awardees, 30 of them included optional match funding for a  
6 combined total of nearly \$5.9 million, which represents a  
7 total project investment across all projects of over \$15  
8 million.

9 Our proposed awardees are spread across 18  
10 counties throughout the state. As you can see on the slide  
11 here, awarded grants were strongest in agriculture-rich  
12 communities with awards distributed to 8 out of the top 10  
13 biggest agriculture-producing counties.

14 The majority of our project proposals are solar  
15 PV systems installed onsite on land that grows a wide  
16 variety of produce and feed crops, with a few that serve  
17 educational purposes and one that supports livestock  
18 operations. The average grant award amount is \$211,000,  
19 with many other grant awards on both ends of the allowable  
20 range.

21 These projects will go a long way in serving many  
22 purposes. All of these projects include the installation of  
23 onsite solar PV, and two-thirds of them include additional  
24 equipment such as electric vehicle charging, battery  
25 storage, or diesel pump replacement with the new electric

1 pumps. Projects that replace a diesel pump for an electric  
2 pump to reduce local criteria air pollutants in  
3 disadvantaged communities, and our projects serving  
4 educational institutions in low-income areas, make up a mix  
5 of some of the projects that are recognized for providing  
6 direct benefits to residents of a disadvantaged or low-  
7 income community -- one of the focuses of California  
8 Climate Investments.

9           Many projects are installing solar PV to serve an  
10 existing electric pump, some of which were obtained through  
11 the SWEEP program at the California Department of Food and  
12 Agriculture. All of these top projects help reduce  
13 greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector, which  
14 currently represent 8 percent of all statewide greenhouse  
15 gas reduction emissions.

16           Also important is the fact that we were able to  
17 spread our awards across a diverse group of applicants.  
18 Our highest-scoring applicant is a female and minority-  
19 owned organic vegetable farm requesting a modest grant of  
20 \$76,000. We also received tremendous help from our staff  
21 in the Siting and Legal offices in preparing CEQA  
22 determinations. Next slide, please?

23           Anyways, staff recommends approval of all 41  
24 grant application packages on today's agenda, offering the  
25 opportunity to proceed with agreement execution and project

1 development consistent with the program solicitation  
2 requirements.

3 Thank you for your time and consideration. I am  
4 available for your questions.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

6 I have one blue card here which is Marc  
7 Gottschalk. Please come on up.

8 MR. GOTTSCHALK: Thank you very much  
9 Commissioners. My name is Marc Gottschalk. I'm Chief  
10 Strategy Officer of DD DANNAR, LLC. I wanted to thank the  
11 Energy Commission for granting this award to Joseph Gallo  
12 Farms.

13 For the benefit of those in the room and on the  
14 phone, the award for this project is called off-grid solar  
15 energy project, accelerating Ag EV adoption is the first-  
16 of-a-kind use of ground mount PV solar generated  
17 electricity to power an EV performing farm operations; in  
18 this case, the mowing and spraying of the almond groves at  
19 Joseph Gallo Farms.

20 One of the unique features of the project is the  
21 use one DANNAR mobile power station with 279 kilowatt hours  
22 of onboard energy storage as the unit to be storing the PV  
23 electricity generated by the ground mount solar system  
24 during the day and then using that energy to power another  
25 DANNAR mobile power station that will have 259 kilowatt

1 hours of energy on board that will also have mowing and  
2 spraying attachments that will go out in the fields daily  
3 to do the mowing and spraying operations.

4 The mobile power station is the world's first  
5 heavy-duty EV platform performing any kind of off-road  
6 maintenance using commonly available attachments from  
7 Deere, Caterpillar and Bobcat, while also having up to 500  
8 kilowatt hours of energy storage on board to support  
9 disaster response scenarios and provide backup power.

10 We look forward to collaborating with the  
11 California Energy Commission on this very exciting project.  
12 Thank you very much.

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. Do we have any  
14 other public comment in the room? All right, any public  
15 comment on the phone? Okay. Seeing none, let us turn to  
16 Commissioner discussion.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, well thank you  
18 very much and I appreciate the speaker from Gallo Farms.  
19 And I've worked with staff over time as they developed and  
20 go about this program, because I think it's a fantastic  
21 program. If it gets a really tremendous way of supporting  
22 adoption of clean energy technologies that will also help  
23 farmers save money and will also clean the air throughout  
24 mainly rural areas and agricultural areas of the state.

25 There's a tremendous amount of growth potential

1 here as farmers see their neighbors install this equipment  
2 and see them using EV farm equipment and having storage and  
3 the electric water pumps just the ability of getting some  
4 additional deployment out. Because of course there already  
5 is today a significant amount in many areas. But getting  
6 additional deployment out and just having more and more  
7 adoption of these technologies. We really want to see the  
8 different and varied and diverse sectors of the state move  
9 forward and use this technology in ways that make the most  
10 sense to them. And so I'm really excited about this  
11 program.

12 I also want to thank the staff, because you know  
13 this was a new area for us. We, as was mentioned in the  
14 presentation, had to come up with an approach that would  
15 allow for a competitive process, because we would be  
16 oversubscribed. But they would not be so onerous that a  
17 family farmer who was busy doing farming would just  
18 potentially find it too overwhelming or too many to apply  
19 or maybe be concerned that it wasn't -- it was just not for  
20 them. And we really wanted to have a program that could be  
21 very accessible. And so I'm pleased with the results.

22 I also do want to thank the staff in the STEP  
23 Division for the support that they provided on the CEQA  
24 aide, because in terms of being able to get these awards to  
25 this meeting it was essential that they step up and do

1 that. And they did, so those are my comments.

2 I'll go ahead and move this item.

3 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Oh, I want -- can I make a  
4 comment first?

5 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Oh, of course.

6 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: I also wanted to just comment  
7 on this item. I was really excited to get the briefing,  
8 because this is the first one we have 41 -- I think maybe  
9 the first one -- we have 41 items all grouped together and  
10 just to get a deeper flavor of the different items.

11 And it really is impressive I think what you and  
12 your team have done in this space, because the level of  
13 outreach that we needed to do again to folks, like you're  
14 saying, are very busy who probably aren't used to engaging  
15 with the Energy Commission or applying for our grants and  
16 that kind of thing. And the work that we did with Karen  
17 Mills and her team as well to just reach out to the people  
18 that will be interested in applying. And we can see what  
19 98 grants and being over -- or 98 applicants and being  
20 oversubscribed it's just really great.

21 I think it's an exciting set of projects that  
22 we've put together and in hearing a little bit more about  
23 the project at Gallo where we're going to combine solar  
24 charging with electric vehicle, I mean that really is the  
25 zero emission cycle that we're all looking for. And a lot

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1 of these projects are innovative and creative and  
2 groundbreaking in that way.

3 I think these also kind of pick up on our theme,  
4 it kind of seems to be the theme of the day here, making  
5 sure all communities across California are engaged and  
6 involved as we make this transition towards cleaner energy.  
7 And of course we're doing that again, because of climate  
8 change and clean air and other very important reasons.

9 So we have a motion. May I get a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

11 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

12 (Ayes.)

13 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MR. DODSON: Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Next we have Item  
17 Number 11, which is the Food Production Investment Program.

18 MR. UY: Good morning Vice Chair and  
19 Commissioners. My name is Kevin Uy with the Energy  
20 Research and Development Division. Staff is seeking  
21 approval for five out of eight projects from the latest  
22 Food Production Investment Program Competitive Grant  
23 Solicitation. The remaining three projects will be  
24 presented at a later Business Meeting.

25 The purpose of the Food Production Investment

1 Program is to fund drop-in and emerging energy technologies  
2 at California food processing facilities, which reduce  
3 energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

4 Funding for this program is provided through the  
5 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and administered through  
6 California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative  
7 which puts Cap-and-Trade dollars to work.

8 The first project is with Rich Products  
9 Corporation who operate an industrial bakery in Torrance.  
10 Conventional refrigeration systems use hydrofluorocarbon  
11 refrigerants, which have a global warming potential of  
12 approximately 4,000 times the potency of carbon dioxide.  
13 This project will replace the existing conventional  
14 refrigeration system with a high efficiency, low-global  
15 warming potential alternative. The system will use trans-  
16 critical carbon dioxide refrigerant and will significantly  
17 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

18 The next project is with Yosemite Foods, a meat  
19 processing facility in Stockton. This project will  
20 incorporate a heat recovery system into an existing, large-  
21 scale trans-critical carbon dioxide refrigeration system.  
22 Waste heat produced by refrigeration will be recycled for  
23 use in a singer system and will significantly reduce  
24 natural gas use.

25 The third project is with Pacific Coast

1 Producers, a tomato processor in Woodland. This project  
2 will install a high efficiency evaporator system, which  
3 evaporates water from tomato juice to produce products like  
4 tomato paste. In addition, steam turbines will replace  
5 pressure reduction valves to produce electricity from  
6 otherwise wasted energy as steam pressure is dropped.  
7 These measures will result in significantly reduced  
8 greenhouse gas emissions.

9           The fourth project is with Initiative Foods, a  
10 baby food producer in Sanger. The facility will overhaul  
11 its energy system by installing high efficiency equipment,  
12 such as boilers, chillers, and refrigeration systems, which  
13 are used to process fruits and vegetables into final  
14 products. These efficiency measures will result in  
15 significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

16           And finally, the last project is with E. & J.  
17 Gallo Winery, a wine producer in Livingston. This project  
18 will integrate high efficiency, variable frequency drive  
19 compressors into an existing refrigeration system and will  
20 significantly reduce electric use.

21           Staff recommends approval of these five awards  
22 and are available if you have any questions. Also Michael  
23 Glassgower (phonetic) from E. & J. Gallo Winery is present  
24 if you have questions for him.

25           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

1 Mr. Glassgower, did you want to make any remarks?

2 MR. GLASSGOWER: No comment.

3 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: No comments, okay.

4 Are there any -- I don't have any blue cards here  
5 with me. Are there any public comments in the room? Any  
6 public comments on the phone? Okay, seeing none, we will  
7 turn to our Commissioner discussion.

8 I'm very excited about our Food Production  
9 Investment Program. I think there's a lot of excitement  
10 today, but this is -- again, we have done I think really  
11 good outreach in this space. This is another set of folks  
12 that are not necessarily used to engaging with the Energy  
13 Commission on energy-related topics. So I appreciate the  
14 great work that was done in this space.

15 I want to make sure the WebEx is still up. Do we  
16 just not have the screen, but the WebEx is still going?  
17 Hold on just a second. If you are listening, we're pausing  
18 just to make sure we're still connected. We're good? All  
19 right we're good.

20 So again, I think that the outreach that we did  
21 in this space to bring in a set of folks that are maybe not  
22 necessarily used to working with the Energy Commission to  
23 put in place technologies that will help reduce energy use  
24 and reduce greenhouse gases is really exciting. I'm always  
25 for these kinds of I really just want to go see them when

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1 they're installed and see how they're working. So I'm so  
2 excited for them to get going. They're interesting and  
3 they're innovative.

4           And the other thing that was important in this  
5 space, similar to the last set of projects, is doing the  
6 outreach and the solicitations in a timeframe that works  
7 for folks that are on an agricultural cycle. And then  
8 being able to get these technologies in, not in the midst  
9 of the height of food processing, but when those times slow  
10 down and then they have some time to put this in. So kind  
11 of matching up what we do with the cycles I think is also  
12 something the team did well here.

13           Any other Commissioner comments?

14           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, just briefly because  
15 California is such an agricultural state and because of the  
16 energy intensive nature of most food processing it's a  
17 really clear opportunity area. And we have this built on  
18 and we have had some good solicitations aimed at food  
19 processing. And it's in fact we have a few plaques and so  
20 on upstairs, some of which have some age to them around was  
21 it Sunkist or there were a couple of programs that were  
22 projects like this.

23           But I think it's exciting. I think we need to  
24 keep doing this, because it's a way of fostering and  
25 supporting a lot of the real important economic activities

1 that occur in the state and helping them be more  
2 sustainable and helping them meet and helping California's  
3 climate goals.

4 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Can I get a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: May I? I move to approve  
6 this item.

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Second.

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

9 (Ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
11 you.

12 We will now go on to Item Number 12, which is the  
13 Production Scale-Up for Clean Energy Technologies, GFO-18-  
14 302, Addendum 1.

15 MR. GILBERT: Good morning.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Good morning.

17 MR. GILBERT: Good Morning Vice Chair and  
18 Commissioners. My name is Benson Gilbert and I'm from the  
19 Energy Research and Development Division. Today, I am  
20 requesting approval for 10 grant agreements that will help  
21 clean energy entrepreneurs successfully advance their  
22 technology to the pilot production stage at California  
23 manufacturing facilities.

24 Over the past five years the Market Facilitation  
25 Office has been systematically putting programs into place

1 to create an innovation pipeline for clean energy  
2 entrepreneurs. The programs started with small grants,  
3 linking entrepreneurs with testing facilities then added  
4 follow-on funding for successful early stage technologies  
5 and now introduces RAMP.

6 Startup companies typically lack the practical  
7 manufacturing experience to successfully move their  
8 technology into production. Moving a technology into  
9 production requires a different set of considerations than  
10 in initial technology development. The intent of RAMP is  
11 to help entrepreneurs overcome these challenges.

12 The first group of RAMP projects involve energy  
13 efficiency technologies. Magnet cooling systems operate  
14 without the use of global warming potential refrigerants  
15 and can operate with up to 50 percent energy savings,  
16 compared to traditional vapor compression systems.  
17 Unfortunately, market adoption has been limited due to low  
18 performance and high cost of commercially available  
19 magneto-caloric (MCE) materials. The General Engineering &  
20 Research project will lead to providing a selection of high  
21 performance and low cost commercially available magneto-  
22 caloric materials.

23 The Glint Photonics project features a high-  
24 efficiency directional lighting system that improves the  
25 effectiveness of lighting a given area with potential

1 energy savings up to 50 percent that is gained by improved  
2 light beam profiles, the ability to easily and precisely  
3 move light where it needs to be, and potential reduction  
4 for the number of lights in a given area.

5           The Treau project features a window-mounted  
6 heating and cooling system that boasts performance greater  
7 than most mini-split heating and cooling systems at a much  
8 lower cost and without having to be installed through a  
9 wall. The low noise, high efficiency and performance of  
10 Treau's system is due to a unique polymer heat exchanger  
11 that allows the use of low global warming potential  
12 refrigerants. Customers will be able to place Treau's  
13 system onto a windowsill, plug it in, and enjoy their view  
14 through the closed window, without professional  
15 installation costs.

16           The second group of RAMP projects involves  
17 renewable energy generation. The current cost of solar  
18 silicon wafers accounts for up to about 40 percent of the  
19 cost of a fully assembled solar panel.  
20 The Halo Industries project uses lasers to produce high  
21 quality silicon solar wafers in a way that is more energy  
22 efficient and produces less waste than current  
23 manufacturing methods at half the cost. This leads to a 20  
24 percent or greater reduction in the utility solar levelized  
25 cost of electricity.

1           The Spark Thermionics project features a very  
2 efficient thermionic energy converter that generates  
3 electricity directly from heat. When added to a  
4 concentrated solar power plant, the thermionic energy  
5 converter would increase the plant's total power output by  
6 up to about 90 percent, by converting the unused heat into  
7 electricity, which in turn could reduce the levelized cost  
8 of electricity to as low as 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour.

9           The third group of RAMP projects involves energy  
10 storage technologies.

11           The Primus Power project features a zinc bromide  
12 flow battery that uses a non-flammable electrolyte, does  
13 not require an ion exchange membrane, and has a large  
14 capacity that can provide a output of 25 kilowatts for 5  
15 hours. This high capacity, combined with a life span of  
16 over 20 years, makes this battery well suited to utility  
17 scale energy storage applications such as solar and wind  
18 integration.

19           The Caban Systems project features a fire-  
20 resistant ruggedized energy storage system that has a  
21 remote access capable power management and control system  
22 and is plug-n-play capable and can operate with batteries  
23 from different manufacturers. Caban's system can keep or  
24 bring critical infrastructure and telecommunication systems  
25 under environmental distress back online and can also be

1 used as a pop-up energy source to be quickly deployed to  
2 disaster areas to restore electricity for lights, heating,  
3 cooling and water.

4           The remaining three energy storage technology  
5 projects support two specific battery components that will  
6 allow the next generation of lithium batteries to be  
7 developed and commercialized.

8           The South 8 Technologies project features a  
9 liquefied gas electrolyte and electrolyte injection process  
10 that provides about 60 percent higher energy densities than  
11 conventional lithium-ion batteries and allows for the use  
12 of less expensive materials than cobalt. South 8's  
13 innovative design allows a battery to fail safely and  
14 without the potential of catastrophic failures that lead to  
15 fire.

16           The Cuberg project features a non-flammable  
17 liquid electrolyte that enables batteries to operate with  
18 about 50 percent higher energy densities than conventional  
19 lithium-ion batteries.

20           The Sepion Technologies project features a  
21 separator that only allows lithium-ions to pass through,  
22 while preventing metals from the cathode that dissolve over  
23 time into the electrolyte to pass through the separator,  
24 which compromises the health of the battery and can lead to  
25 catastrophic failures and fire. The separator also

1 increases the energy density and useful life of batteries,  
2 and allows batteries to use materials less expensive than  
3 cobalt.

4 That concludes my presentation today. Thank you  
5 for your consideration and I am available to answer  
6 questions you may have.

7 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

8 I do have some blue cards on this one. We'll  
9 start with Eion Lys followed by Vince Romanin.

10 MR. LYS: All right, thank you Mr. Gilbert for  
11 your presentation, and good morning members of the  
12 Commission. And thanks for the opportunity to comment. My  
13 name is Eion Lys. And I'm the designated Administrator and  
14 Project Manager for the Cuberg Award, 12C Group 3. And  
15 Cuberg is pleased to be able to continue to partner with  
16 the California Energy Commission in furtherance of our  
17 state's energy future.

18 Production scale up of our battery cell  
19 technology can play a key role in meeting and exceeding  
20 California's clean energy goals, specifically through  
21 greater safety and much more energy by weight and volume  
22 over existing lithium ion cells, our lithium metal battery  
23 cells can lead to faster and broader adoption of electric  
24 vehicle technology to more Californians helping our state  
25 realize our goal of 5 million zero emission vehicles by

1 2030. So thank you for your consideration. And I'm  
2 available for any questions.

3 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you. I have  
4 Vince Romanin, followed by Alexandra Rasch.

5 MR. ROMANIN: Good morning. Thank you Vice Chair  
6 and Commissioners and thanks for your consideration on this  
7 grant. Treau's mission is to enable people to have access  
8 to comfortable homes and comfortable buildings without the  
9 harmful implications on the environment.

10 We're doing this, because we recognize building  
11 heating, cooling and air quality as a public health issue.  
12 But climate change is also a public health issue. And  
13 today, these two things are at odds, because building  
14 heating and cooling emits about 20 percent of all of our  
15 global greenhouse gases. Our goal is to increase access to  
16 these important energy services, increase user comfort  
17 while providing a path to complete decarbonization of our  
18 buildings.

19 This industry is really resistant to innovation.  
20 And so it's critical to have supportive groups like CEC,  
21 and we're really excited to continue working with you. And  
22 so on behalf of the entire Treau team, I just want to say  
23 again thank you again for your consideration.

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

25 I have Alexandra Rasch, followed by Paul Kreiner.

1 MS. RASCH: Good morning Vice Chair Scott and  
2 Commissioners. My name is Alexandra Rasch. I am the CEO  
3 and founder of Caban Systems. And as an early member of  
4 the Proterra engineering team I'm always very excited and  
5 proud to see the Proterra team here.

6 On behalf of the entire Caban team, we would like  
7 to thank the California Energy Commission and its staff for  
8 the most recent Notice of Proposed Award for the prototype  
9 into production modular battery for platform projects for  
10 California critical infrastructure.

11 The proposed project will scale up our emerging  
12 best-in-class energy storage prototype and accelerate the  
13 production of the needed energy storage solutions to  
14 provide reliable, distributed energy sources that will add  
15 a new dimension of safety, savings and emission reductions  
16 for the investor owned utility repairs.

17 Californians are increasingly vulnerable to power  
18 outages, due to the electrical equipment and infrastructure  
19 failures, brownouts, earthquakes, wildfires and severe wind  
20 storms and landslides. Wildfire-related power outages and  
21 communication failures have taken dozens of lives,  
22 emphasizing the immediate need to accelerate the production  
23 and deployment of commercially scalable and reliable  
24 platforms for life saving, fossil fuel-free power for  
25 critical infrastructure.

1           The proposed project will help scale up product  
2 manufacturing of a dedicated battery design for resiliency  
3 and withstand extreme conditions in combination with onsite  
4 power generation the equipment can bring a cell power under  
5 environmental distress back online.

6           In the case of public safety via power shut-offs,  
7 the platform can provide telecommunication systems in  
8 critical infrastructure for hours or days, restoring  
9 communications immediately.

10           We greatly appreciate the partnership with the  
11 California Energy Commission to grow energy storage  
12 manufacturing in California that will provide direct  
13 benefits to ratepayers, including greater reliability,  
14 increasing safety, economic development and jobs,  
15 environmental benefits and lower costs.

16           We look forward to working together to  
17 successfully implement the proposed projects. Thank you  
18 for your time.

19           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

20           I have Paul Kreiner.

21           MR. KREINER: All right. Thank you, Benson, for  
22 the introduction, and thank you Vice Chair and  
23 Commissioners for your time this morning. My name is Paul  
24 Kreiner. I'm the VP of Products at Primus Power where I've  
25 lead mechanical engineering efforts for almost nine years

1 now.

2 I just wanted to take a moment to thank the  
3 California Energy Commission for supporting clean energy  
4 technology like ours, and with the production scale-up  
5 grant in particular, helping companies like Primus Power  
6 overcome what is often the most challenging hurdle in the  
7 commercialization of a promising technology, namely the  
8 transition from prototype manufacturing to initial  
9 production. This transition requires significant  
10 investment to overcome new design and supply challenges and  
11 is often the point at which promising companies have  
12 stumbled.

13 As you heard, at Primus we've developed a zinc  
14 bromate flow battery unlike any other battery technology in  
15 the market. Zinc and bromate are two of the lowest cost  
16 and most abundant battery chemical elements on the planet.  
17 And on this extremely low cost platform, we've invented a  
18 radically simplified flow battery system that we believe  
19 will be best in class in longevity, safety, recyclability  
20 and cost, specifically for large-scale solar and wind plus  
21 storage applications.

22 And now, after 10 years of R&D and product  
23 development, we've proven this technology at full scale  
24 both in house and in the field. And we're proud to have  
25 done that right here in California.

1           However, the systems we've built so far are  
2 prototypes built in relatively small quantities. So to  
3 scale up and realize our vision of low cost, safe and long-  
4 lasting energy storage and thereby accelerate the  
5 transition to a 100 percent renewable grid here in  
6 California and beyond, Primus needs the support of agencies  
7 like the California Energy Commission, who are committed to  
8 a sustainable future. And for that we are extremely  
9 grateful. So thank you.

10           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

11           I don't have any other blue cards. Any other  
12 public comment in the room? All right, any public comment  
13 on the phone? Okay. So we'll transition to Commissioner  
14 discussion.

15           You know, I've been working on research now for  
16 about two months and just digging in and learning all the  
17 details in a much more robust way than previously. And I  
18 have to say that the careful deliberation that I think has  
19 gone into tailoring solicitations, so that we're meeting  
20 specific needs along the innovation pipeline is really  
21 quite excellent to see. And so I appreciate kind of the  
22 RAMP getting from people have put one or two together  
23 trying to figure out how do you get into that production  
24 scale space.

25           And I think we have a really nice and intriguing

1 set of projects here before us. So if there are no other  
2 comments, I might ask for a motion or comments.

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I'll just move this  
4 item.

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

6 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

7 (Ayes.)

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 12-0. I'm  
9 sorry, 3-0. That was Item 12. (Laughter.)

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, so moving on to  
11 Item -- wait a second, so that was 12, okay. So moving on  
12 to Item Number 13, which is the Regents of the University  
13 of California on behalf of the Berkeley Campus, please.

14 MR. FRIEDRICH: Good Morning Vice Chair Scott and  
15 Commissioners. My name is James Friedrich with the Energy  
16 Research and Development Division. Seated beside me is Dr.  
17 Sascha von Meier of UC Berkeley and Alex McBride from the  
18 City of Oakland is on the phone.

19 I am here requesting approval of a \$5 million  
20 grant agreement with the University of California,  
21 Berkeley, for the demonstration of an Advanced Energy  
22 Community in the City of Oakland herein referred to as the  
23 Oakland EcoBlock.

24 In 2016 the Energy Commission issued a  
25 solicitation titled "The EPIC Challenge: Accelerating the

1 Deployment of Advanced Energy Communities.” This was a  
2 two-phased solicitation that challenged multi-disciplinary  
3 project teams to partner with local governments and develop  
4 innovative and replicable approaches for accelerating the  
5 deployment of Advanced Energy Communities. Phase I of the  
6 competition focused on the planning and design, while this  
7 Phase II grant focuses on the build-out and deployment.

8           The Oakland EcoBlock is led by a team headed by  
9 UC Berkeley’s Institute for Energy and Environment with key  
10 support from the City of Oakland and Lawrence Berkeley Lab.  
11 This project is a first-of-its-kind deployment of an  
12 Advanced Energy Community that retrofits an existing  
13 residential city block consisting of 22 buildings with 44  
14 units. It is innovative in several key ways. It combines  
15 deep energy efficiency retrofits at the block-scale with a  
16 DC microgrid that integrates rooftop solar PV, flywheel  
17 energy storage and EV charging stations. DC microgrids  
18 have the potential for higher reliability and lower capital  
19 costs due to fewer, simpler power electronic components,  
20 higher power system efficiency due to fewer power  
21 conversions and avoidance of costly and complicated  
22 transfer switch and protection equipment necessary in AC-  
23 coupled microgrids.

24           A smart microgrid control and management software  
25 system will optimize supply and demand at the block-scale

1 while encouraging behavioral demand response. The EcoBlock  
2 also includes shared EVs for local trips and water  
3 efficiency and reuse opportunities.

4           Advanced Energy Communities enable local  
5 governments like the City of Oakland to take a leadership  
6 role in supporting our state's energy transition and  
7 decarbonization goals. Staff believes the Oakland EcoBlock  
8 will demonstrate an integrated, community-scale approach to  
9 energy retrofitting can be more efficient and cost-  
10 effective than the individual house scale to achieve  
11 emissions reductions in existing buildings.

12           Staff would also like to acknowledge two letters  
13 submitted this morning in the business meeting docket,  
14 signed by several members of the proposed EcoBlock  
15 community site. Community members voiced concern about the  
16 nature of communication and outreach around the project and  
17 voiced uncertainty about the risks and responsibilities  
18 that participating in the project would entail. Staff  
19 respect these concerns and want to emphasize how important  
20 it is that the voice of community members is heard.

21           Staff also wants to emphasize that participation  
22 in this project is purely voluntary. The project is not  
23 intended to be, nor dependent on 100 percent participation.  
24 The project can still be technically and financially  
25 feasible with less than 100 percent participation and

1 that's by design. Staff believe that perhaps the lag in  
2 timing between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants perhaps  
3 allowed misperceptions to grow about the project. And  
4 Phase 2, with now a concrete proposal and design will give  
5 us the opportunity to have a fresh start in the community.

6           There have been changes to the Phase 2  
7           project team focused on stronger community  
8 engagement, including a new communications facilitator  
9 who's in a stronger position to conduct outreach. This is  
10 something that staff will pay close attention to.

11           Staff thanks you for your consideration of this  
12 agreement. Myself as well as Dr. von Meier are available  
13 to answer any questions you may have. And Dr. von Meier  
14 and Ms. McBride from the city of Oakland would like to say  
15 a few words in support of the project.

16           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

17           Dr. von Meier, please.

18           DR. VON MEIER: Thank you very much. I'm Sascha  
19 von Meier from UC Berkley. And it's my pleasure to speak  
20 here on behalf of this exciting project. This project  
21 involves real innovation at the technical level in terms of  
22 scaling technologies, making them cost effective at the  
23 level of a city block in bringing what are presently  
24 considered luxury items such as rooftop solar with energy  
25 storage that allows you to ride through utility power

1 outages, bringing those technologies within economic reach  
2 of all citizens.

3           This Oakland EcoBlock pilot project is really  
4 intended to demonstrate something that is scalable and that  
5 is robust and that can be rolled out in many different  
6 places. What's most unique about it is that it's a  
7 retrofit, not a green field construction. And that is also  
8 exactly what makes it hard.

9           I'm going to focus on the greatest difficulties,  
10 which are in the realm of social science, not the  
11 technology. The technical parts of it are easier to figure  
12 out and to optimize with, because we can be algorithmic  
13 about it. The social challenges are there because we're  
14 not starting like many microgrids with a single entity that  
15 owns and operates a microgrid. That's been done. We've  
16 seen it.

17           We're not starting with an intentional community  
18 that gets together and says "how can we build the most  
19 effective microgrid together?" We're starting with a  
20 typical block that like any block has its history and its  
21 tensions. Just like any block that we live on, there are  
22 long-standing issues between and among neighbors that we  
23 couldn't possibly know before we walked into it. But it's  
24 addressing those challenges very directly and transparently  
25 that I think will make this project scalable.

1           So we are aware that there's great diversity on  
2 this block, diversity of opinion. Also as everyone who's  
3 been to Oakland knows there's been a lot of development  
4 going on. And people are sensitive to the fact that money  
5 is coming in. New money is coming in. And development is  
6 changing the flavor of many corners of the city  
7 neighborhood. So that's a context.

8           As it was stated, it's very important that for  
9 this project to be scalable it's not required to have 100  
10 percent buy-in. In fact, with the funding we have we can't  
11 afford right now to do 100 percent of the block. But to  
12 demonstrate the technological advantages, we believe that  
13 can be done with about one-third of the block of roughly 30  
14 homes. And in fact we're aiming for one half, more than  
15 that number of the neighborhood residents and property  
16 owners are in support.

17           What is also important to me personally is that  
18 we preserve an option for people to opt in later once they  
19 see what this is really about. It's been four years since  
20 these owners and residents were first contacted. And we  
21 were really developing this idea with them during Phase 1,  
22 as we went. And there's been a lot of time particularly  
23 lagging between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of people basically  
24 filling in the gaps of what they weren't sure about how  
25 this was going to work.

1           We haven't been able to present them yet with a  
2 contract to opt in. So there's been I think a bit of  
3 speculation. The key piece of it is that it's absolutely  
4 voluntary that property owners do not lose any autonomy  
5 over their home. And that hopefully when we start with the  
6 actual physical construction, there will be real evidence  
7 and we now have a concrete basis for a proposal for an  
8 offering that homeowners and residents can then see and  
9 make their decision on.

10           As was also mentioned, we have Ms. Cathy Leonard  
11 onboard, who's the Founder of the Oakland Neighborhoods for  
12 Equity, a Board Member of the Golden Gate Community  
13 Association. And she's a professional who will now be  
14 leading the outreach and communications.           And one  
15 of the first steps in Phase 2 really will be a very open  
16 and public meeting with the community, so that we're  
17 completely transparent and everybody knows what to expect.  
18 Thank you.

19           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

20           I don't have any blue cards here in the room. Is  
21 there any other public comment in the room? Okay. I do  
22 have a series of folks on the phone. The first is  
23 Alexandria McBride from the City of Oakland.

24           MS. MCBRIDE: Chief Resilience Officer from the  
25 City of Oakland and I appreciate the opportunity to present

1 today. We're really excited for Oakland to be the home of  
2 the nation's first EcoBlock and are in support of the items  
3 being presented.

4 The EcoBlock has been a cornerstone of our  
5 Resilient Oakland Strategy (indiscernible) like our Council  
6 recently declaring a climate emergency back in October. We  
7 most certainly understand the importance and the urgency of  
8 climate change and these comprehensive solutions like  
9 EcoBlock move the dial.

10 Our goal, as you heard from Dr. James, our goal  
11 is to have a successful EcoBlock model back in scale to  
12 other parts of the city. And we also want to maintain our  
13 values of transparency, impact and equity.

14 One of the early lessons we've learned is as also  
15 you heard just now is that this model is not only about  
16 technical innovations, but also even more importantly about  
17 the social community building component that has to take  
18 place to make the project be successful.

19 I'm seeing this, and we as a city are seeing this  
20 as an opportunity to be more thoughtful and more  
21 intentional and engaging in inclusive community engagement  
22 for this block. And we've already been having  
23 conversations with the EcoBlock project team about how the  
24 city can better support that community engagement work.  
25 But I'm really confident that UC Berkeley's Institute for

1 Energy and Environment with Sascha's leadership will be a  
2 strong partner.

3 And then so again just thank you for your time  
4 and consideration. I'm also happy to answer any other  
5 questions.

6 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

7 I have next Cathy Leonard.

8 MS. LEONARD: Hello, can people hear me?

9 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Hi. Yes we can. Please go  
10 ahead.

11 MS. LEONARD: Oh great, okay. Thank you. My  
12 name is Cathy Leonard. I'm an Oakland native. And I live  
13 in the Santa Fe neighborhood, which is just west of -- I'm  
14 sorry, just east of the Golden Gate neighborhood. I'm on  
15 the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Community  
16 Association, which has been in Oakland and been a non-  
17 profit for the last 30 years. We've been fighting for  
18 change in and around the Golden Gate neighborhood.

19 Most recently in November, after four years of  
20 lurking in the Golden Gate to Santa Fe neighborhood where I  
21 live, Longfellow, we just got a dedicated city planner  
22 who's going to help us prepare a blue print for other  
23 Oakland neighborhoods who want to be involved in change in  
24 their neighborhood. So right now we've got repaving  
25 schedules going on, on a block that wasn't even on the

1 paving scale at all. We've just done a lot of things in  
2 the neighborhood.

3           Also we were instrumental in helping to reopen  
4 our neighborhood schools, so we're still in the process of  
5 doing that. There's a lot of things going on in the  
6 community.

7           I'm particularly exciting about this project.  
8 And I wish it was in my neighborhood. If the changes that  
9 I see in our city, there's a lot of seniors with asthma,  
10 because of climate change being located next to industry  
11 and the fact that these -- Alexandria would like to talk  
12 about this a little bit more, but the City of Oakland  
13 actually has a contract with a group in Upland. And  
14 they're going around to the different seven districts and  
15 actually getting neighborhoods involved in climate change.  
16 One is happening in my neighborhood and a couple of weeks,  
17 so this sort of ties all in with the EcoBlock.

18           So my experience with community outreach is  
19 extensive. I've been doing community outreach for the last  
20 20-30 years. I've been able to successfully bring change  
21 about in our neighborhoods.

22           Just to give you an example, there's a Transbay  
23 bus that comes to our neighborhood, which predated or came  
24 after the train, which ran through North Oakland and  
25 Berkley. And AC Transit had decided that they were going

1 to move that bus from our neighborhood. And so I was able  
2 to rally people from the three affected North Oakland  
3 neighborhoods, South Berkley and get 700 signatures on a  
4 petition which we presented to AC Transit, our Council  
5 Member and we were able to successfully block that removal  
6 of that bus. This was (indecipherable) we need it to get  
7 to San Francisco. It was a quick way to get there. The  
8 alternative would have been to take three buses to get to  
9 San Francisco. So those are just one example of some of  
10 the outreach that I've done. I'm looking forward to  
11 working on this project.

12 I know a couple of people on the block already  
13 who have expressed a verbal commitment to be involved in  
14 the EcoBlock. I agree that people do need more  
15 information. And now that I'm on board I will be walking  
16 that block doing door-to-door outreach, having community  
17 meetings. And I look forward to being a partner in this  
18 endeavor. Thank you so much.

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

20 Next we have Mary Shisler. Are you there? Your  
21 line is open.

22 MS. SHISLER: Yeah, I'm trying to talk. Am I  
23 getting through?

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yes. We can hear you.

25 MS. SHISLER: Okay. Thank you so much. All

1 right. I have a number of things running through my mind.  
2 I live on Fremont Street and my home is one of the homes  
3 that will be affected by this EcoBlock. I have been  
4 absolutely shocked and appalled at the lack of transparency  
5 of this project. When Dr. von Meier spoke today, that is  
6 the most comprehensive and complete and intelligent and  
7 clear description of what is going to happen in my block  
8 that I have heard in all the years that this has been going  
9 on.

10 I am glad to hear that there's awareness that  
11 there is a social problem here. There is. And I really  
12 don't know now what my feelings are about it, because I  
13 don't feel I have been given enough information to even  
14 tell you, as a homeowner, what I really want done about  
15 this. On one hand it sounds very positive. On the other  
16 hand there has been absolutely no information about the  
17 impact upon the value of my home and of the quality of my  
18 life.

19 And I think these are important issues. And my  
20 first thought was that I was going to beg you to vote this  
21 down, absolutely totally beg you. That my husband and I  
22 are close to retirement and can't afford to lose the value  
23 of our home due to the manner in which this was handled.  
24 But I have gained some confidence in the project listening  
25 to Dr. von Meier speak. She sounds like she's

1 professional. She sounds competent. It sounds like she's  
2 aware of the issues.

3 And right now, what I would like to have happen  
4 is to have the vote kicked down the block until there has  
5 been a full, complete, transparent meeting with the entire  
6 community. Because we have had so much misinformation and  
7 we have been left so far out of the loop that I don't feel  
8 we can possibly give you a well-informed answer on how we  
9 would like to participate in this project.

10 And I want to be as fair as I can to those who  
11 have made all the effort to make this to go through. I  
12 can't remember name of the people who just spoke, but I  
13 felt they came across to me as passionate and caring. And  
14 I would like to talk to them. And I would like to talk  
15 them before I'm asked to make up my mind. And I just plead  
16 with you to kind of give the neighborhood a little bit more  
17 time when we actually get detailed information about what  
18 this would mean to us.

19 You might be able to get a better sense of social  
20 cohesion were you to correct the mistakes of the past. And  
21 I think it would make those of us who have been so excluded  
22 and are so scared and so worried feel better. Do you  
23 really want to go into this block having sizeable block of  
24 us terrified about what's going to happen to us and our  
25 home values? I don't think you want (indiscernible) --

1           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you, Ms. Shisler. I'm  
2 going to have to ask you to please wrap up.

3           MS. SHISLER: All right. I'm done. I'm just  
4 asking you, could you kick this down the block a little bit  
5 and have them give us a really full-scale transparent  
6 discussion about what's happening, open to the whole  
7 public. Thank you.

8           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

9           Next I have Robin Freeman.

10          MS. FREEMAN: Hi. This is Robin Freeman. Am I  
11 coming through?

12          VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yes, you are.

13          MS. FREEMAN: Okay. Thank you. I'm the Emeritus  
14 Chair of the Merritt College Environmental Management  
15 Program. And I am a resident of the block for 40 years; my  
16 wife and I and our family. I think the concept is a great  
17 addition to the wonderful array of greenhouse gas reduction  
18 projects that you're looking at. And I agree that this is  
19 in a very large part, a social experiment.

20                 And that is what I want to address. So as has  
21 been said, that that part has not been addressed at all.  
22 And the only addressing of the social experiment that's  
23 been very time consuming for the residents, so all the  
24 people on my side of the block, there's six or eight  
25 homeowners have signed a petition that they do not want to

1 be involved at this point.

2 So (indiscernible) homeowner's association,  
3 they're called EcoBlock Block Collective, (phonetic) and I  
4 would suggest finding a block that is less divided and  
5 interested and wishes to be involved. And begin with the  
6 low-hanging fruit and test it out that way. Then perhaps  
7 that Santa Fe neighborhood block would work.

8 And I would also suggest that the neighbors need  
9 be compensated for their time as guinea pigs. And not just  
10 for the initial meetings, but they need to be compensated  
11 for all the meetings. And my low-income neighbors won't  
12 have the time to be involved otherwise. It's too expensive  
13 and as it is for obviously me.

14 And that also what happens in five to ten years  
15 following implementation, they need to be compensated for  
16 having -- you know, dealing with the maintenance issues and  
17 all the things that will come up with a micro-utility.

18 And those are comments (indiscernible) and thanks  
19 so much.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

21 I have Tim Lilly.

22 MR. LILLY: Hello, can you hear me?

23 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yes. Yes we can, please go  
24 ahead.

25 MR. LILLY: Okay. Thanks. Thanks for the

1 opportunity. I am a resident on the block for about 15  
2 years and a homeowner and very interested in the project.  
3 I think it's very exciting and I think we can be a model  
4 for potential environmental co-awareness and what could be  
5 a great model for cities.

6           And I think yes, just to address the concerns  
7 thank you Mary and thank you Robin for your input. And  
8 thank you Mary, for being open-minded and potentially open  
9 to considering the project. I know you said you felt like  
10 there was a lack of information and I agree. I think more  
11 information would be great.

12           I just wanted to let Robin know I am on his side  
13 of the block. I am a homeowner and I am in favor of at  
14 least going forward with the project to the next phase. So  
15 it's not completely true that all of the homeowners on his  
16 side of the block are against it. I think just people  
17 don't have the information and unfortunately some people  
18 have refused the outreach. You know, there has been  
19 multiple attempted outreach to folks who are claiming  
20 there's been no information, no information, but they've  
21 been sort of aggressive in their not wanting to be  
22 approached.

23           So we've respected that, but there has to be  
24 maybe a little more information coming out, so folks know  
25 about. But either way we don't want (indiscernible) and we

1 just want to go through the next phase and take it from  
2 there. And let everyone know exactly what's happening, but  
3 if folks on the block do not want to participate then of  
4 course that's their right. And I think that's been very  
5 clear from the start that nothing will ever happen against  
6 anyone's will at any stage.

7           And I think it's easy to be a kind of pro-  
8 environment and pro-green on paper ideologically. And then  
9 have a not in my backyard kind of feel about it, but I  
10 think we're not going to know if we can do anything about  
11 what are the environmental challenges, if we don't get  
12 innovative and environmental and try some stuff out. And  
13 this seems like something that would be beneficial to  
14 better the environment, which is where huge amounts of  
15 greenhouse gases and environmental issues are created.

16           So yeah, I just want to express my appreciation  
17 for the ideas of the project and I would like to take it to  
18 the next level in appreciation of the California Energy  
19 Commission's grant. And I think we should definitely move  
20 on. And if anything we should maybe speed the process up  
21 rather than slow it down, because it's taken a long time to  
22 get to this point. And we want everyone's input and  
23 everyone to participate willingly and so (indiscernible) --

24           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Mr. Lilly I'm going to have to  
25 ask you to wrap up please.

1           MR. LILLY: Sure. And I just want everyone to  
2 feel good about the project and like I say I don't want to  
3 be delaying it, but willing participation should be on the  
4 table. If people don't want to participate that's fine,  
5 but then the willing participants should be able to move  
6 forward quickly. Thank you so much.

7           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

8           I have David Rose, please.

9           MR. ROSE: David Rose. I own a property in the  
10 EcoBlock. I'm 100 percent in favor of it. I have a MBA  
11 with a focus on sustainability and I feel that -- I'm aware  
12 of all the statistics about energy consumption and the  
13 effects of greenhouse gases that homes have, that our  
14 (indiscernible) environment has. And I think having this  
15 little block in Oakland being an advantage to the whole  
16 world is really a amazing, amazing opportunity. That not  
17 withstanding people's fears and concerns, which I think can  
18 all be addressed this is going to put us on the forefront  
19 of the map of sustainability and how places do things.

20           And I think it will be a boon to the environment,  
21 to the State of California, to the City of Oakland. And  
22 for all of us as property owners have a tremendous positive  
23 impact on the value of our homes. So I'm just 100 percent  
24 in support of it. I know that there's going to be some  
25 things that don't work for everybody 100 percent of the

1 time. But I think the positive nature of this project and  
2 the ambitious nature of this project far and away outweigh  
3 the concerns that people have.

4 And particularly they are concerns that can be  
5 sorted out through communication and discussion and getting  
6 to know our neighbors. And I think that's also one of the  
7 things that's lacking in the world today is that sense of  
8 community and I think this is a way that will create a  
9 stronger and more resilient community.

10 That's the end of my comments. Thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

12 I don't have any other indication of additional  
13 comments on the phone. Are there any other comments on the  
14 phone? Okay. So seeing no additional comments on the  
15 phone, we will turn to Commissioner comments.

16 I do just want to say a couple of things. One is  
17 that this is part of the EPIC Challenge, which I know that  
18 James mentioned in his presentation where the first round  
19 was planning grants that went out to about 13 different  
20 groups around the state. And then the second round of this  
21 is implementing -- people had a chance to -- the folks who  
22 won the planning grants had a chance to compete for  
23 implementation dollars. And so that is why there has been  
24 kind of a lag between planning and implementation.

25 But I also want to -- I think that's a good note

1 to ourselves here at the Energy Commission for the other  
2 projects that are going to be coming down to make sure we  
3 have a closer tie between kind of part one where we were  
4 planning and part two, the implementation of this.

5           As you all know, I'm the Public Member on the  
6 Energy Commission and transparency, good communication,  
7 making sure the community really understands what is  
8 happening here is paramount. That has to get done. This  
9 project will -- it doesn't need participation from  
10 everybody to be a successful project, but people do need to  
11 understand what's taking place and why it's taking place.  
12 The point is to bring communities along. And as one of the  
13 commenters said, have these communities out in the  
14 forefront, and be I think kind of be excited and pleased.  
15 And proud to be out on the forefront even if they didn't  
16 want to participate in the project.

17           So really making sure that the neighbors  
18 understand what's happening, why it's happening, they do or  
19 don't have to participate, having an opt-in or an opt-out,  
20 all of those components are really important.

21           And maybe, James, you can address how that is  
22 going to take place within this proposed project?

23           MR. FRIEDRICH: Sure. This is James Friedrich,  
24 again with the Energy Commission. First I'd like to  
25 acknowledge that again staff here, the concerns of the

1 community, and want people to know that their voices are  
2 heard.

3 We think it's a good idea to let folks know that  
4 the approval of this grant doesn't mean the trucks are out  
5 tomorrow in front of their homes. There's a lot of  
6 planning still to be done and community engagement still to  
7 be done. And we support bringing the community together  
8 for full transparency for everybody to understand what's  
9 going to be happening here. And for people to know again  
10 that this a voluntary commitment and we will make sure to  
11 work with UC Berkeley to ensure that we maintain that for  
12 the life of the project, both the ability to voluntarily  
13 commit and voluntarily opt out.

14 And so if Dr. von Meier has anything to add, I'll  
15 leave it at that.

16 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Other -- yes, please go  
17 ahead and then go back to other persons.

18 MS. MCBRIDE: Thank you so much. And I also  
19 would like to thank the folks who've called in for their  
20 candid comments. I want to say first of all personally  
21 that I really empathize with the situation of being a  
22 homeowner and having a group of people come and say, "Hey,  
23 we've got this idea for what we're going to do in your  
24 block." But then not have the specific details ready of  
25 what's the proposal. And I personally would feel anxious

100

1 as well. So I want to acknowledge that.

2 And I want to reemphasize that the transparency  
3 to everyone is absolutely the key here. In terms of the  
4 communication, the project team has been walking a bit of a  
5 tightrope between trying to keep everyone on the block up  
6 to date, but also respecting the express wishes from  
7 several residents and owners not be contacted. And this  
8 was mentioned. So it's a tricky thing when you're trying  
9 to kind of have information out there but you want to  
10 respect people's wishes who say, "Hey, don't call me."

11 So I would say the project team has done the best  
12 that we were able to do based on what we knew then. We  
13 might do it differently if we start up fresh. And I think  
14 that we have a great basis really to move forward with the  
15 enthusiasm that's been shown from so many different people  
16 on different sides.

17 And I really, again want to thank the folks  
18 who've called in. I think we have a great basis for moving  
19 forward.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Other Commissioner comments or  
21 questions?

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I had a question. Could  
23 you just walk us through what the community engagement  
24 looks like and what a community meeting or how you're doing  
25 the outreach to the community members?

1 (Colloquy off-mic on the phone.)

2 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: We need a -- if you're on the  
3 phone line, we can hear some of you. So maybe if you could  
4 please mute yourself on your end and we'll also try to mute  
5 you on our end.

6 Okay, to Commissioner Monahan's question, please?

7 DR. VON MEIER: Right. So from here on out with  
8 the Phase 2 actually funded and in progress, we would start  
9 with a comprehensive meeting with all the stakeholders  
10 involved and present the greatest detail that we're able  
11 to. In terms of the proposed type of contract that they  
12 would be signing, it would be a draft. They have still  
13 opportunity to help shape that language and the specifics,  
14 but we now have an actual proposal for them to consider and  
15 help us edit.

16 And we will also specify the different pieces  
17 that they can opt into. For example, being a member of  
18 this EcoBlock Cooperative doesn't mean you automatically  
19 have to agree that you're going to change out your gas cook  
20 stove for an electric induction cook stove. We're going to  
21 present you with what we believe are the benefits of these  
22 different pieces of technology, but no individual component  
23 of this would be mandatory. It would be recommended and so  
24 part of that community outreach is to make a lot more  
25 detailed information available.

1           One of our first action items with the project  
2 being funded to go ahead is to develop a website. One with  
3 one part of it being kind of public facing and another  
4 would be a forum for the residents and owners on the block  
5 to actually exchange and access information, so that they  
6 can really have all the technical details at their  
7 fingertips. And then we will refine with their input, in  
8 fact we've already solicited the inputs from the subset of  
9 owners that had asked to stay in touch with the team. We  
10 solicited their input on how we should move forward with  
11 public announcements. And out of respect for the block  
12 residents and owners, the University has refrained from  
13 making any announcement as to the Notice of Proposed Award.

14           You know, part of it we're also sensitive to the  
15 privacy issue here. It's not obvious that one would want  
16 to be suddenly in the public spotlight.

17           So we will continue to solicit their input and  
18 have the property owners help us with the drafting of the  
19 contract language that will be favorable, that will end up  
20 being a compromise in some sense, but we will start with  
21 specific recommendations. And then move forward with the  
22 explicit opt in to different pieces. And there will be  
23 contractors ready to speak to the homeowners individually  
24 about the specifics that they want done in their house and  
25 to make that as low impact as possible.

1                   COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS:  So, just as a follow on  
2 question, I've heard the concern expressed about could this  
3 impact the value of houses in the neighborhood.  And I'm  
4 trying to get my head around what kind of physical changes  
5 that would be visible to somebody in the street, for  
6 example, that were just looking at the neighborhood.  They  
7 certainly wouldn't notice that someone had an induction  
8 stove instead of a gas stove, for example.  I imagine there  
9 might be solar panels would be involved.  But could you let  
10 us know, just in terms of physical changes in the  
11 neighborhood what might look different?

12                   DR. VON MEIER:  That's a really good question.  
13 Yeah, I think the solar panels are visible but not  
14 attention grabbing.  I think the most noticeable change  
15 would be a row of electric vehicles parked on one side of  
16 the block with EV charging that are intended as shared  
17 vehicles that would be charged from the block DC microgrid,  
18 which means -- and this is important as we look toward the  
19 possibility of many more frequent power outages on PG&E's  
20 system.  We'll be able to charge even during a grid outage.

21                   So a big part of this is emergency preparedness.  
22 And it's having an island of resilience in the city where  
23 people can go to and get the central resources.  So the  
24 EVs, which I will add are not entirely uncontroversial,  
25 because parking is a scarce resource.  So there's a balance

1 to be found between well how many parking spaces do you  
2 want to take up with these EVs? So that number hasn't been  
3 defined, but I think that would be the most visible part.  
4 The microgrid interconnection would not be obvious to  
5 anyone.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: And you're not talking  
7 about signage, like welcome to the most sustainable block?

8 DR. VON MEIER: That would have to be something  
9 that the block owners, residents, would have to all be  
10 enthused about. I would not in a million years put that  
11 upon them. (Laughter.)

12 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: I do recognize the Catch 22  
13 that you've mentioned in terms of wanting to be -- from  
14 what I heard is lots of people or maybe not, but lots of  
15 people are looking for additional information. But then  
16 there are also folks who have said, "Please don't contact  
17 me about this anymore." So that's a fine line to walk.

18 And also without the funding that we're  
19 contemplating right now you don't have the dollars to  
20 actually go and do the outreach that we're talking about.  
21 But I do want to stress how important it is to get that  
22 done and to outreach to the community.

23 I like the plans that you have laid out for  
24 Commissioner Monahan and viewing additional details about  
25 what that's going to look like, being really mindful of

1 that as you go into this project. I can't stress how  
2 important I think that is. I do think this is a good  
3 project. I think it's an important project.

4 And so if there aren't any other questions, but  
5 if there are please ask, I will ask for a motion.

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I will move this item. I  
7 do want to request that you keep the Energy Commission  
8 staff very much in the loop on your outreach. And my hope  
9 is that you're able to build a strong level of buy-in and  
10 consensus. And you're able to reassure homeowners who  
11 really don't want involvement in this project that it is  
12 going to be at the very least potentially somewhat  
13 beneficial or neutral to them and make that a reality for  
14 them. I do recognize the challenges of working in  
15 established neighborhoods.

16 And so I'll move approval of this item.

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

18 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

19 (Ayes.)

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
21 you.

22 All right, we will move on. We're just going to  
23 power through, because we've go about four or five more  
24 items here. So we're going to move on now to Item 14, the  
25 Spatial Informatics Group, LLC please.

1           MR. HORANGIC: Good afternoon. My name is Alex  
2 Horangic of the Energy Research and Development Division.  
3 Today staff is requesting your approval of the grant  
4 resulting from the Wildfire: Assessing and Preparing for  
5 Risks Under Climate Change Solicitation. Recent experience  
6 has shown first responders and grid managers that wildfire  
7 behavior is changing in ways that current fire risk models  
8 do not adequately handle.

9           The solicitation is intended to develop next-  
10 generation wildfire risk models at both local and statewide  
11 scales to help ensure resiliency of the electric grid in  
12 the near and long terms in the face of the growing wildfire  
13 risk under climate change. And to seek specific advances  
14 in wildfire modeling regarding extreme weather and wind  
15 events, the effects of widespread tree mortality, the  
16 dynamics of vegetation and fuel with climate change, and  
17 fire behavior in the wildland-urban interface.

18           Specifically the recommended awardee, Spatial  
19 Informatics Group, will implement a two-phased project,  
20 which will develop methods to optimize the location of  
21 future weather stations, improve understanding of the  
22 relationships between extreme weather conditions and  
23 wildfire through analysis of major historical fire events,  
24 advance the science of fire behavior in areas of elevated  
25 tree mortality through laboratory experiments to develop

1 new fuel models. And to develop computationally efficient  
2 wildfire scenario models at differing temporal and spatial  
3 scales to improve decision-support about electricity  
4 assets.

5           If successful this agreement will inform energy  
6 policy and decisions by providing actionable information  
7 for grid management for investor owned utilities and  
8 support California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment.  
9 Staff recommends approval of this agreement, and I will be  
10 happy to answer your questions.

11           I would also like to introduce Dave Sapsis from  
12 CAL FIRE. He's graciously come to make comments in support  
13 of this recommended agreement.

14           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

15           Dave?

16           MR. SAPSIS: Good afternoon. Thanks for the  
17 opportunity, Dave Sapsis from CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource  
18 Assessment Program.

19           By way of context, our program has been involved  
20 with fire safety rulemaking in the Utility Commission for  
21 over a decade now. Following some utility-ignited fires  
22 that were catastrophic in 2007, we got involved to provide  
23 technical and scientific support to the Commission for  
24 enhanced regulatory actions to promote fire safety. That  
25 culminated in the decision for enhanced regulations in a

1 high fire threat district map associated with high-risk  
2 areas from utility wildfires that was adopted in late 2017  
3 or early 2018.

4 Over the course of that work, we highlighted a  
5 number of the unique complex vulnerabilities associated  
6 with the utility grid, highlighted some issues of data gaps  
7 and modeling shortcomings, as well as to be frank with you  
8 some of the fundamental uncertainties associated with  
9 environmental conditions that impact wildfire risk. So  
10 when we were asked to provide some technical comment to the  
11 proposals in this solicitation we were very, very welcome  
12 and felt we were pretty well served.

13 So really just to cut to the chase really, I  
14 think without boring you with some gory and geeky kind of  
15 details about extreme value statistics and atmospheric  
16 wildfire coupling, the Department is really wholesale in  
17 support of this solicitation going to Spatial Informatics  
18 Group. They've compiled a very comprehensive work plan and  
19 a really all-star team to conduct this really dynamic and  
20 needful cutting edge research.

21 And just to finish up, the Department would  
22 really welcome an advisory capacity as the program of work  
23 is carried out. With that, I'm available for any  
24 questions.

25 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Thank you.

1 Do I have any other public comment in the room.  
2 I don't have any blue cards. Okay. Any comment on the  
3 phone?

4 (No audible response.)

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Let's turn then, and thank you  
6 for being here, to Commissioner discussion.

7 I think that this is an incredibly important  
8 piece of research. I probably don't need to tell that to  
9 either of you. Just after the horrific and catastrophic  
10 wildfires that we have had in the state recently getting  
11 these updated wildfire models, advancing our understanding  
12 of fire science, it's just I can't even express how  
13 important that is. And so if you do not have questions, I  
14 will ask for a motion on Item 14.

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move approval.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I second.

17 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

18 (Ayes.)

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The item passes 3-0.

20 All right, next is Item 15, which is Bringing  
21 Rapid Innovation Development to Green Energy BRIDGE, Energy  
22 Storage GFO-18-304.

23 MR. TIAN: Good afternoon Vice Chair and the  
24 Commissioners. My name is Qing Tian. I am with the Energy  
25 Research & Development Division. Today, we would like to

1 ask for your approval for three new agreements. These new  
2 agreements are the outcome from a solicitation for  
3 technology demonstration and deployment of energy storage  
4 projects. To be qualified for funding, the proposed  
5 technology must be from the previously funded Energy  
6 Commission or federal agency projects.

7           The goal is to allow researchers to continue  
8 their development work without losing momentum to  
9 fundraise. Another requirement for this solicitation is  
10 that the project must demonstrate alternative energy  
11 storage technologies to lithium ion batteries. And well  
12 represent a scale up of 25 percent or higher in power or  
13 energy from the previously awarded project.

14           This solicitation will help support state energy  
15 goals, our energy storage system and will also help  
16 diversify our research portfolio by promoting alternative  
17 energy storage technologies such as float battery, summer  
18 storage and fly wells.

19           So in the first agreement with Natron Energy, the  
20 recipient will demonstrate the sodium-ion battery system at  
21 an electric vehicle fast charging station at UC San Diego.  
22 This project will help size the battery system and will  
23 also develop business cases to enable the economic  
24 deployment of high-power EV fast charging infrastructure  
25 and increase electric vehicle adoption.

1           The proposed technology is nonflammable and safe.  
2 This will allow technology to be deployed at the sites  
3 prone to fire risk. This same technology can also be  
4 further scaled to support other grid applications as a  
5 stationary energy storage system.

6           The second agreement is with EOS Energy Storage.  
7 The recipient will demonstrate a plug-and-play zinc hybrid  
8 battery technology at SDG&E's demonstration facility  
9 located in Pala, California. This project will achieve  
10 improved power and energy density and enable full  
11 characterization of performance in high-value applications  
12 including peak shaving, load following, and frequency  
13 regulation.

14           This project will also model economic benefits  
15 for energy storage systems including demonstrating  
16 cost/benefit analysis for IOU ratepayers. EOS is working  
17 to achieve a battery system with less than \$100 per  
18 kilowatt hour in manufacturing cost, which if successful,  
19 would make it one of the most cost-effective battery  
20 technologies on the market.

21           The third agreement is with Element 16  
22 Technologies. In this project, the recipient will  
23 demonstrate a sulfur thermal battery technology for  
24 stationary energy storage and power generation. The  
25 demonstration will expand on previous applications of the

1 thermal storage device by converting the stored thermal  
2 energy to electricity through a real-time field-testing and  
3 demonstration.

4 If successful, these new agreements will lead to  
5 greater reliability, a reduction of greenhouse gas  
6 emissions, better system resiliency and will also improve  
7 the public safety by promoting alternative energy storage  
8 technologies that are now label (phonetic) and safe.

9 With that, staff like to recommend approval of  
10 these three new agreements and thank you very much for your  
11 time and attention.

12 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. I don't have any  
13 blue cards. Do we have any public comment in the room?  
14 Public comment on the phone? Okay, seeing none, let's turn  
15 to Commissioner discussion.

16 This is another I think great and interesting set  
17 of projects. If you remember the innovation pipeline,  
18 there was the first part and then BRIDGE is in the middle  
19 and then RAMP is on the other end. So this is kind of the  
20 set of projects in the middle again kind of smartly and  
21 deliberately designed to hit different parts of that  
22 innovation pipeline.

23 The other thing that I think is intriguing about  
24 these projects is we're trying to diversify the types of  
25 battery storage that we have within the state and these all

1 kind of hit on that area. So I highly recommend those to  
2 you. Do you have a questions or comments?

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Move approval of this  
4 item.

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Can I make a quick  
6 comment?

7 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Really fast, I know people  
9 are hungry. I also think it's really interesting how we're  
10 bridging storage and transportation electrification with  
11 some of these investments. And this idea that Vice Chair  
12 Scott talked about this full cycle of clean energy where we  
13 want to have our electricity system together with our  
14 transportation system moving towards a complete zero  
15 emission mobility and electricity for the future. So these  
16 are just really a great set of investments to move us along  
17 that direction.

18 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great. Would you like to  
19 second?

20 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I do second, heartily.

21 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, all those in favor?

22 (Ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, this passes 3-0.

24 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Let us now move on to Item  
25 Number 16 and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

1           MR. CHEN: Okay, so good morning Vice Chair Scott  
2 and Commissioners. My name is Peter Chen and I'm with the  
3 Energy Research and Development Division. Today, I am  
4 requesting your approval for an agreement with the U.S.  
5 Department of Energy to be undertaken at its National  
6 Renewable Energy Laboratory to conduct research that  
7 advances the state of medium and heavy-duty natural gas  
8 vehicle technology.

9           The transportation sector is the largest source  
10 of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. And heavy-duty  
11 diesel trucks are the largest source of NOx emissions, or  
12 nitrogen oxide emissions, in California's air districts in  
13 non-attainment for ozone and particulate matter.

14           Low NOx emission natural gas engines are  
15 commercially available today and are regularly combined  
16 with renewable gas to reduce both greenhouse gas emissions  
17 and NOx emissions. However, there are still technology  
18 gaps that limit widespread adoption. For example, the  
19 largest low NOx natural gas engine currently available  
20 today is not sized to meet the needs of most long-haul  
21 trucking. Current natural gas engine, vehicle and  
22 infrastructure technologies also have room for efficiency  
23 and cost improvements to better compete with diesel.

24           This agreement supports four competitively  
25 selected subcontractors as part of a larger research

1 consortium with co-funding from the U.S. Department of  
2 Energy and the South Coast Air Quality Management District  
3 to develop technologies that can help address these gaps.

4           The first subcontractor is Cummins, Inc. They  
5 will develop a next generation natural gas engine with  
6 improved efficiency, low NOx emissions and lower system  
7 costs compared to current commercially available engines.  
8 The engine will be sized to meet the needs of long-haul  
9 trucks.

10           The second subcontractor is US Hybrid. They will  
11 demonstrate plug-in hybrid electric drayage trucks using  
12 downsized natural gas engines at the San Pedro Bay Ports.  
13 The project involves iterative design optimization using  
14 chassis dynamometer testing to balance emissions and  
15 efficiency benefits of the hybrid powertrain for a typical  
16 drayage operation.

17           The third subcontractor is Transient Plasma  
18 Systems. They will develop a production-ready prototype of  
19 an advanced ignition system that can improve durability and  
20 enable natural gas engines to operate at higher pressures  
21 and dilution to achieve higher efficiencies as well as  
22 lower emissions.

23           The fourth subcontractor is Gas Technology  
24 Institute. They will demonstrate a smart compressed  
25 natural gas fueling station that uses a low-cost pre-cooler

1 combined with sensors and vehicle-dispenser communications  
2 to help achieve consistent full fills of compressed natural  
3 gas vehicles. This can lead to expanded vehicle operating  
4 ranges or lower fuel system costs related to oversizing  
5 tank capacity to compensate for under fills.

6           If successful, this agreement will lead to  
7 reductions in greenhouse gas and NOx emissions from medium  
8 and heavy-duty vehicles as well as reductions in total cost  
9 of ownership of natural gas vehicles. I recommend approval  
10 of this agreement and I'm happy to answer any questions at  
11 this time.

12           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you. I don't have any  
13 blue cards, any public comment in the room? All right, any  
14 public comment on the phone?

15           (No audible response.)

16           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. I will just on this one  
17 note how much I appreciate the good work of the staff here  
18 and the partnership that we have with the US Department of  
19 Energy, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and  
20 NREL on this.

21           This is another one where the sum of the parts  
22 will be greater than the whole, because there's a series of  
23 more than these four products that will also be able to get  
24 information. And they'll also be able to learn from our  
25 projects as well.

1 Are there other questions or comments?

2 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I think this looks  
3 great and I'll move approval.

4 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Second.

5 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

6 (Ayes.)

7 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All right, the motion carries  
8 3-0.

9 Let us now go onto Item Number 17, Advancing  
10 Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Research in Existing  
11 Buildings and Baking Industry, GFO-18-503. But before you  
12 start the presentation, we have a disclosure.

13 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right, so I have actually  
14 just concluded a renewable energy law class that I've been  
15 teaching at UC Davis King Hall. And so I wanted to  
16 disclose that. King Hall was not the entity involved in  
17 this contract, but in Item 17c UC Davis is the prime for  
18 the contract. Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Please, go ahead.

20 MR. EHYAI: Very good. Good afternoon Vice Chair  
21 Scott and Commissioners. My name is Amir Ehyai with the  
22 Energy Efficiency Research Office. GFO-18-503 sought  
23 projects to advance natural gas energy efficiency research  
24 in existing buildings and bakeries. The funding  
25 opportunity focused on four areas of research covering

1 bakeries, room heaters, hot water distribution systems and  
2 advanced building insulation.

3           Staff requests approval of three projects aimed  
4 at reducing natural gas use in heating existing homes.  
5 Applications for a bakery project and a hot water  
6 distribution project were evaluated, but are not  
7 recommended for funding.

8           The first project for your consideration is with  
9 the Institute of Gas Technology to improve the performance  
10 of atmospherically vented wall furnaces. This project  
11 develops and demonstrates two retrofit solutions for  
12 existing multifamily and single-family homes. The first  
13 solution is a self-powered drop-in replacement for gravity  
14 wall furnaces, offering improved efficiency up to 80  
15 percent versus the existing 63 percent. This retrofit  
16 eliminates the standing pilot light without the need to run  
17 electrical service to the heater. The estimated payback on  
18 the incremental cost is two years.

19           The other retrofit is a direct-vent solution that  
20 draws combustion air from the outside instead of the  
21 conditioned space. Efficiencies greater than 90 percent may  
22 be possible. This project overcomes barriers to  
23 implementing direct-vent technologies by developing  
24 training and installation packages to reduce install costs  
25 and promote this higher efficiency option.

1           The second project with Lawrence Berkeley  
2 National Laboratory will conduct a comprehensive market  
3 assessment of direct gas heating equipment in California.  
4 A large fraction of room heaters in California are  
5 installed in low-income, priority population communities.  
6 This project will provide information on the existing stock  
7 and the households where they are installed; perform lab  
8 and field evaluations; and inform policies and programs  
9 regarding the energy, economic, environmental and health  
10 implications of these heaters.

11           And the last project with UC Davis will develop  
12 and test a novel insulation solution for existing homes  
13 with little or no wall insulation. The retrofit solution  
14 uses an aerosol-based sealant to seal wall cavities to  
15 reduce air leakage; and then adds blown-in insulation with  
16 phase change material enhancements to reduce heat transfer  
17 through the wall assembly.

18           Phase change materials increase a building's  
19 thermal capacity by storing and releasing thermal energy at  
20 specific temperatures. The research will develop and test  
21 phase change material-enhanced insulation optimized for  
22 various California climate zones. The project goal is to  
23 show sufficient natural gas and electricity savings to  
24 recover the costs within 10 years.

25           Staff requests your approval of these projects.

1           But first, Theresa Pistoichini from UC Davis is  
2 here and would like to say a few words on her project. And  
3 as well, Rob Kamiski (phonetic) of Gas Technology Institute  
4 is here and available to answer any questions.

5           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Great.

6           MR. EHYAI: Thank you.

7           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

8           Please come up.

9           MS. PISTOICHINI: Hi. I'm Theresa Pistoichini from  
10 UC Davis, the PI of the Retrofit Insulation Solution Grant.  
11 I just want to say thank you for considering the award.  
12 The research team is led by UC Davis and also TRC is our  
13 research partner.

14           And we have tremendous support from the industry  
15 in developing this package including inflation  
16 manufacturer, Owens Corning; phase change manufacturer,  
17 Insolcorp; aerosol ceiling manufacturer AirSeal; and  
18 thermostat manufacture ecobee, which is going to provide  
19 data on user set points in 50,000 California homes and also  
20 the support of SoCal Gas.

21           So we're really excited about the team and what  
22 we plan to accomplish. Thank you.

23           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Thank you.

24           Any other public comment in the room? Any public  
25 comment on the phone? All right, Commissioner discussion.

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1 I'll just note this is another nice set of  
2 projects, figuring out how to stay on the cutting edge of  
3 efficiency in existing buildings I think is important as we  
4 go on. I wish I could channel Commissioner McAllister here  
5 for this, but that's all I'll add to Amir's presentation.  
6 Any questions or comments?

7 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No. I think you captured  
8 it. And I move approval of this item.

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

10 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

11 (Ayes.)

12 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: So Item 17 passes 3-0. Thank  
13 you.

14 We will now move on to Item Number 18. Let me  
15 just check. I don't think Mr. Uhler is here in the room.  
16 Is he on the phone, do you know? Okay.

17 So for Agenda Number 18, Item Number 18, which is  
18 a Petition to Request Rulemaking Hearings. The Commission  
19 will now consider an act to approve or deny the petition  
20 submitted by Steve Uhler requesting that the Commission  
21 initiate rulemaking hearings implementing Public Utilities  
22 Code Section 399.30(c)(4).

23 So now I will ask the Public Adviser whether Mr.  
24 Uhler has asked her to relate any of his points to the  
25 Commissioners in his absence.

1 MS. MARTIN-GALLARDO: Good afternoon. This is  
2 Jennifer Martin-Gallardo and I have not received any  
3 comments from Mr. Uhler.

4 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. All right.

5 So because Mr. Uhler's petition and related  
6 documents were submitted to the docket and made available  
7 to the Commissioners in advance of today's meeting, we will  
8 deem his arguments as submitted on the papers, but not read  
9 them aloud.

10 So now let's hear from staff in response to Mr.  
11 Uhler's petition. Would you please introduce yourselves  
12 for the record?

13 MS. LEE: Good morning Vice Chair and  
14 Commissioners. I'm Natalie Lee, the Deputy Director of the  
15 Renewable Energy Division, here to discuss staff's  
16 recommendation regarding the petition and also joined by  
17 Jared Babula from the Chief Counsel's office.

18 MR. BABULA: Thank you. Yes, this is Jared  
19 Babula from the Chief Counsel's Office. And we'll have a  
20 short response and then we can respond to any questions you  
21 may have.

22 MS. LEE: So again, Natalie Lee. The Petitioner  
23 has requested that the Energy Commission initiate a  
24 rulemaking hearing to implement a specific statutory  
25 provision, Public Utilities Code section 399.30(c)(4).

1 Staff recommends that the Commission deny the petition,  
2 because staff have already initiated pre-rulemaking  
3 activities to update the enforcement procedures for the  
4 Renewables Portfolio Standard for local publicly owned  
5 utilities, more commonly known as the RPS/POU Regulations.

6 This update will address a broad range of  
7 statutory provisions including the one specifically  
8 referenced in the petitioner's request. Staff have posted  
9 a public notice of the first public workshop regarding  
10 these amendments that will be held July 17th, 2019. During  
11 this workshop the public will have opportunity to comment  
12 on staff's proposal for amendments. We intend to open  
13 formal rulemaking later this year and anticipate bringing a  
14 set of regulations to this Commission for consideration of  
15 adoption by late 2020.

16 Based on the fact that staff activities have  
17 already started for a broad range of updates, including the  
18 one specifically referenced, again we do recommend denial  
19 of this petition.

20 MR. BABULA: And I would just like to add we  
21 attached a proposed order to the memo that staff had filed  
22 in response to the petition. And so the motion that you  
23 could be voting on really is to deny the petition for a  
24 rulemaking and adopt staff's proposed order. Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Do we have any members

1 of the public in the room who have comments? Okay. Do we  
2 have any members of the public on the phone? Seeing none,  
3 we will now turn to Commissioner discussion.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, as the new Lead for  
5 Renewables, I am very well aware of the upcoming RPS  
6 proceeding rulemaking. And I think that it's correct that  
7 the issues raised by Mr. Uhler can be addressed and should  
8 be addressed there. So just I'm checking in to see if  
9 there are any other comments and I'll go ahead and move to  
10 deny the petition and adopt the draft order.

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

12 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

13 (Ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The motion carries 3-0. Thank  
15 you.

16 Next let's go on to the minutes. May I get a  
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I move the minutes.

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: All those in favor?

21 (Ayes.)

22 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: The minutes passed 3-0.

23 Let us now go onto Lead Commissioner Reports. Do  
24 you want to start?

25 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Sure, I have one thing to

1 report and I'll keep it brief, but the Chair would probably  
2 wonder if I didn't report on this one. We had a very nice  
3 meeting in Imperial County back in May 22nd pulling  
4 together a lithium recovery initiative. With a number of  
5 people involved from Imperial County and local stakeholders  
6 and developers who are looking for -- end researchers, who  
7 are looking for opportunities to better -- to find a way of  
8 economically extracting lithium from salt and sea brines  
9 and doing that as part of the process at geothermal plants.

10           And this is an area where the Energy Commission  
11 has made some grants and where we are seeing results.  
12 There's no question that our pre-energy policies and clean  
13 transportation policies are driving at this moment, with  
14 the market where it is, a need for lithium. And lithium is  
15 a major component of batteries today. And you know both  
16 certainly on the transportation side, and also right now  
17 one of the technologies being used for other kinds of  
18 energy storage as well. So it's a really interesting  
19 opportunity to capitalize on this resource right here in  
20 California, in an area that really needs the potential  
21 economic activity and jobs and development that could come  
22 with this.

23           And I will just add, as somebody who has spent a  
24 lot of time on environmental and natural resource issues,  
25 this is an exceptional sustainable approach, because really

1 the footprint of these facilities is really just like a  
2 geothermal power plant. And then there's an additional  
3 facility that's about that size that would be involved in  
4 processing the brine before the minerals could be extracted  
5 and it could be reinjected back into the geothermal field.

6 So it's a very, very interesting technology. I'm  
7 very interested, as is the Chair, in looking for ways to  
8 move it forward. And I think that that meeting was a  
9 really nice check-in with some people who will, I hope be  
10 some of the movers and shakers in order to make some of  
11 this happen.

12 So to be continued on that one, but I did want to  
13 report while I'm at it. I think that's my only report  
14 today.

15 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner  
16 Douglas.

17 Commissioner Monahan?

18 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah. I wanted to talk  
19 about the Clean Transportation Program and the Investment  
20 Plan. And just get you guys up to speed on what we've been  
21 thinking about and with the team and get your input.

22 So as Vice Chair Scott well knows there is a  
23 draft plan, and for the formally ARFVTP, now Clean  
24 Transportation Program and we have been really  
25 conscientious of the fact, as I'm sure you all agree, that

1 we need to be very attentive to equity as we move forward  
2 with our investments. And we need to make sure that we're  
3 getting input from interest in California that can help  
4 broaden our perspective on what it means to make  
5 investments attentive to equity.

6           So we reached out to the Disadvantaged  
7 Communities Advisory Committee and asked them whether they  
8 would help us. And they are. This was not part of their  
9 normal cycle. They're informing us. They've been very  
10 helpful, I think at the CPUC.

11           And so a subgroup of members from the DACAC are  
12 going to be coming here tomorrow, or over the phone  
13 tomorrow, and talking with us. We just like starting the  
14 conversation on this and I feel like we are -- the team at  
15 the Fuels and Transportation Division are really wanting to  
16 be open to this new process. And we're going through a  
17 little bit of uncharted territory. And we all realize that  
18 this is something we must do. And it's a learning process  
19 for all of us.

20           So I just wanted to let you guys know and get any  
21 thoughts that you have about how we should be thinking  
22 about this. And your suggestions are welcome.

23           COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Well, just at a high level  
24 I'll say that that's a great way of tapping into the  
25 willingness of the Committee members to help us think

1 through equity issues and with regard to many different  
2 programs. It was really nice to see the item with the  
3 Black Chamber Of Commerce earlier today, because that was a  
4 nice example of the kind of project that can really help us  
5 come up with new and effective strategies for engaging a  
6 much broader section of communities in the Central Valley,  
7 for example. So that kind of creative thinking is great.

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Yeah, I would add, I think  
9 getting some additional outreach on the Draft Investment  
10 Plan would be great. It has gone through its usual open  
11 and transparent cycle where lots of people have had the  
12 opportunity to weigh in and comment and let us know what  
13 they think.

14 It has -- there are several members from the  
15 environmental justice community or representative of it on  
16 the Advisory Committee for the ARFVTP Investment Plan or  
17 the Clean Transportation Program. So I think that you will  
18 see that voice reflected in there. And also in the types  
19 of grants that we give out, the way we're targeting  
20 different communities with the program to make sure that  
21 they are included.

22 But I think additional outreach and information  
23 and data from people who want to help inform how the  
24 Commission does its work is really great. So I'm glad that  
25 you will be having that meeting and I look forward to

1 hearing what the input is that you receive. So thanks for  
2 doing that, yeah.

3 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: We're looking to it.

4 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: That'll be awesome. It will  
5 be great to have them together for that.

6 I must admit I was so excited to get to Chair a  
7 Business Meeting. I didn't go through my calendar to put  
8 together the list of things that I have been up to. And so  
9 I will not -- I won't -- that's all I'll say on that item.  
10 (Laughter.)

11 Let me see if now the Executive Director has a  
12 report for us?

13 MR. BOHAN: A really quick report, I just wanted  
14 to say last week we had our annual staff awards ceremony.  
15 And it was really a great opportunity to acknowledge all  
16 the great work that the 600 plus folks in the building and  
17 our citywide (phonetic) office down the street do. And to  
18 highlight the really great achievements last calendar year  
19 and a slight number of them, so thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: And I'll echo your  
21 congratulations and warm acknowledgement of all of our  
22 terrific staff and the great work that they carry out on  
23 behalf of the people of California every day. It's  
24 awesome.

25 Public Adviser's Report, please?

1 MS. MARTIN-GALLARDO: Hi. I have no formal  
2 report today.

3 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay.

4 We will now turn to Public comment. Is there any  
5 public comment in the room on anything that we didn't talk  
6 about today? Any public comment on the phone?

7 (No audible response.)

8 VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Okay, with that what I'd like  
9 to do is we wanted to -- we're not adjourning yet. We did  
10 want to adjourn in memoriam for Ron Nichols. I'd like to  
11 say what we were going to say. And then we'll turn to the  
12 Chief Counsel's Report and go into closed session. And  
13 then when we come back we'll just adjourn. That way people  
14 don't have to sit.

15 And what I really wanted to read to you all was  
16 the message that we received from Pedro and Kevin at SCE.  
17 I tried to think of other wonderful words to say about Ron,  
18 but they really captured it quite well and so I'm going to  
19 read to you from that letter. It went to the Edison team.

20 "It is with profound sadness that we report the  
21 death of Southern California Edison President Ron Nichols  
22 on Thursday, June 6th.

23 "As you know Ron waged a courageous battle with  
24 gastric cancer for the past few months. Ron was a  
25 passionate leader of the organization, a valued member of

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1 the senior management team and a trusted friend, confidante  
2 and counselor. As evidenced by the countless well wishes  
3 you've sent his way since his cancer diagnosis.

4 "He is a role model for all of us in when we say  
5 how we do our jobs is as important as what we do. He  
6 brought his best self every day.

7 "Ron was a tireless campaign for the development  
8 of clean energy, particularly for programs that benefitted  
9 customers in environmentally-impacted communities. He  
10 firmly believed that the transition to a clean energy  
11 economy should be a just transition in which all customers  
12 could benefit.

13 "Ron had more than 35 years of experience in the  
14 electric and water utility industry. He was a strategic  
15 and operational advisor to utilities, state and local  
16 government, power suppliers and the financial community on  
17 complex energy and utility matters throughout the United  
18 States and particularly in the west. We have lost a true  
19 leader."

20 And our heartfelt sympathy as well as the team  
21 there goes out to our colleagues at SCE, to Ron's wife, to  
22 Cheryl and their entire family. He will truly be missed.  
23 He was so warm and wonderful and also just very thoughtful  
24 and a tireless leader in this space. So we wanted to  
25 acknowledge him and to say something in memory of him.

1           Okay. Let us turn now to the Chief Counsel's  
2 Report.

3           MS. VACCARO: So thank you. In just a minute  
4 you'll be announcing that we're going to go into closed  
5 session. But before then I'd just like your indulgence to  
6 continue with the Chief Counsel's Office tradition, which  
7 is to put names with faces when we have the privilege of  
8 having law school interns in our office. And I do have two  
9 to introduce to you today, just very briefly. I have  
10 Claire Christensen. She attends the UC Berkeley law  
11 school. And we have Alex McInturf who attends UC Hastings.

12           They have been in some of the meetings I think  
13 with some of you already. You might not have known who  
14 they are. They will be with us for the remainder of the  
15 summer and we're just very pleased to have them in our  
16 office.

17           VICE CHAIR SCOTT: Welcome to both of you. Glad  
18 to have you.

19           Okay. So the Commission will now go into closed  
20 session as specified in Agenda Item 24(a)(ix) which  
21 provides notice that the Commission will adjourn to closed  
22 session with its Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code  
23 Section 11126(e) to discuss the following litigation to  
24 which the Energy Commission is a party: *State Energy*  
25 *Resources Conservation and Development Commission versus*

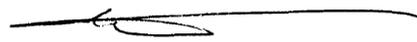


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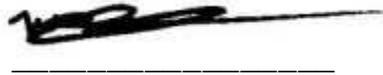
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