

DOCKETED	
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Document Title:	Notice of Workshop to Discuss Research into Clean Energy Alternatives to Diesel Backup Generator Systems
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 09/19)

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Solicit Public Comments on Status of Research
on Clean Energy Alternatives to Diesel Backup
Generator Systems

Docket No. 19-ERDD-01

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ACCESS
WORKSHOP

RE: Discuss Research Concepts
and Needs

Notice of Workshop to Discuss Research into Clean Energy Alternatives to Diesel Backup Generator Systems

January 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Remote Access Only

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a remote-access workshop to seek input and discuss ongoing efforts to develop clean energy alternatives to diesel backup generator systems. The workshop will also discuss future research opportunities to initiate new technology solutions that will provide the state with clean energy alternatives to diesel backup generator systems.

In the last few years, the number of data centers and other commercial operations in California relying on large diesel backup generator systems has increased. Additionally, diesel and other fossil fueled backup generator systems have been used more often in recent years because of increased wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff events. This workshop will provide a forum for state government agencies, researchers, community-based organizations, industry representatives, the academic community, and other interested parties to discuss the increased use of diesel backup generator systems and the clean energy alternatives that can be developed to replace these systems.

CEC Chair David Hochschild will host this workshop with additional attendance by other CEC commissioners and potentially commissioners or other senior staff from the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the California Independent System Operator. A quorum of commissioners may participate, but no votes will be taken.

The workshop will be held remotely, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to encourage physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the direction in these Executive Orders. Instructions for remote participation are below.

Agenda

CEC staff is seeking input from researchers and other interested parties to inform the direction and scope of future research efforts under the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program to develop and commercialize clean energy alternatives to diesel backup generator systems that will meet the goals of SB 100. In 2021, the EPIC program will develop and submit for approval the next 5-year EPIC research investment plan. Information from this workshop will be used to determine the level of research appropriate for the EPIC program to consider in that plan and future research plans.

This workshop will:

1. Review the current use of diesel backup generator systems in California with a focus on their use in data centers and in response to the recent wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoff events. Speakers will include representatives from CARB, the academic community, industrial representatives, community leaders, and other key stakeholders.
2. Provide key stakeholders the opportunity to discuss current and ongoing research being completed nationally and internationally to replace diesel and other fossil fuel backup generator systems with clean energy alternatives.
3. Discuss developing recommended innovative research ideas and advancing to commercialization new technology solutions to replace existing diesel backup generator systems while meeting the goals of SB 100 and other California clean energy goals.

A detailed [meeting agenda](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event-calendar) will be posted before the workshop at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event-calendar>.

Background

California's passage of SB 100 continues to change the landscape for clean energy development in the state by increasing demand for new, clean energy generator sources. The increased reliance on diesel and other fossil fuel backup generator systems creates a long-term challenge in meeting the state's clean energy goals. The deadly and destructive fires of the past few years, along with the findings from the California Fourth Climate Change Assessment, highlight some of the impacts California can expect if greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically reduced.

Research is needed to evaluate clean energy alternatives to these fossil fuel systems and to ensure the critical needs of customers using these systems are met. The EPIC program invests in scientific and technological research to accelerate the transformation of the electricity sector to meet the state's energy and climate goals. New clean energy solutions are needed to decarbonize the electricity sector. The EPIC program invests more than \$130 million annually in technology research and development that is helping to:

- Expand the use of renewable energy.
- Build a safe and resilient electricity system.
- Advance electric technologies for buildings, businesses, and transportation.
- Enable a more decentralized electric grid.
- Improve the economic well-being and health of Californians.
- Support California's local economies and businesses.

Public Comment

Oral Comments:

Staff will accept oral comments at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. If participating via Zoom's platform, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. If you are participating by telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute. See detailed instructions below.

Written comments:

Written comments must be submitted to the Docket Unit by **5:00 p.m. February 12, 2021**. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [CEC e-commenting system](https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/e-filing-and-e-commenting) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/e-filing-and-e-commenting>, which links to the comment page for this docket.

At the "Add Comment" page, enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 19-ERDD-01 and "CEC Draft Research Concept" in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 19-ERDD-01

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Public Advisor and Other CEC Contacts

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public with assistance in participating in CEC proceedings. For information on participation or to request interpreting services or reasonable accommodations, please contact Public Advisor Noemí O. Gallardo at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, by phone at (916) 654-4489, or toll-free at (800) 822-6228. Requests for interpreting services and reasonable accommodations should be made at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to accommodate all requests.

Direct media inquiries to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Direct general and technical inquiries to Mike Gravely at mike.gravely@energy.ca.gov.

Remote Attendance

Participants may join the workshop by clicking on the link below or calling in using the instructions below.

Join Via Computer: Follow the link below and the instructions on your screen to join the workshop via Zoom.

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/93807376397?pwd=NENRa1BGTvJ0M0t2QWxDaDI6djZiZz09>

Workshop ID: 938 0737 6397

Workshop password: 263470

The workshop may also be accessed at [Zoom](https://join.zoom.us) (<https://join.zoom.us>) by entering the Meeting ID: 938 0737 6397 and password: 263470.

Join Via One-tap mobile (audio only):

US: +16692192599,,93807376397# or

+12133388477,,93807376397#

For comments: Dial *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute your phone line.

Join Via Telephone:

Dial by your location

(888) 475-4499 US Toll-free or

(669) 219 2599 US

Enter ID: 938 0737 6397

International numbers are available: <https://energy.zoom.us/j/acc84wXezK>.

For comments: Dial *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute your phone line.

If you experience difficulties, you may contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the Public Advisor's Office via email or phone.

Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at [Docket Unit 19-ERDD-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01):
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01>.

Dated: January 4, 2021, at Sacramento, California

David Hochschild
Chair

List Servers:

- EPIC - Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program
- Research - Energy RD&D programs
- Opportunity - RFPs, solicitations, contracts, funding announcements
- Greatoaks (Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility)
- Lafayette (Lafayette Backup Generating Facility)
- Missioncollege (Mission College Data Center)
- SJ2 (San Jose City Data Center)
- Sequoia (Sequoia Data Center)
- DCAG - Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group
- ImplementationSB350 - Developing Regulations, Guidelines, and Policies for Implementing SB 350 and AB 802
- Barriers - SB 350 Barriers Report