

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	20-IEPR-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	General/Scope
<b>TN #:</b>	237256
<b>Document Title:</b>	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator Comments - LACI Comments on 2020 IEPR Update Volume II
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	3/22/2021 4:02:10 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	3/22/2021

*Comment Received From: Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator  
Submitted On: 3/22/2021  
Docket Number: 20-IEPR-01*

**LACI Comments on 2020 IEPR Update Volume II**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



March 22, 2021

California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
[docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov)

**RE: Draft 2020 Integrated Energy Policy Report (Docket No. 20-IEPR-01)**

Dear Commissioners,

The Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the California's Energy Commission's *Draft 2020 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Update, Volume II on The Role of Microgrids in California's Clean and Resilient Energy Future*. LACI supports the Energy Commission's view of microgrids as a strategic solution in developing a resilient, equitable, and clean energy grid.

LACI is creating an inclusive green economy for the Los Angeles region by unlocking innovation, transforming markets, and enhancing community. LACI aims to build a regional innovation ecosystem that supports the discovery and commercialization of clean technologies by creating new companies, derisking the go-to-market process, and helping companies successfully deliver market-ready cleantech solutions along with accompanying jobs in Southern California. As part of this work, LACI has prioritized supporting resilient clean energy technology solutions that help and accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon grid. As the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently identified Los Angeles County as the highest risk for natural disasters in the United States<sup>1</sup>, LACI believes the region can serve as a model for public and private partnerships working together to harden and modernize the energy infrastructure.

**Clean Microgrid Development**

Volume II of the Draft IEPR notes the Energy Commission has made significant investments to advance the research and development of microgrids. These investments, along with other state incentives and policies, have contributed to the growing development and deployment of microgrids in California. Recently, grant opportunities have supported the demonstration of energy storage that can provide clean backup generation without the reliance on fossil fuels. LACI startup Freewire's Mobi Gen<sup>2</sup> is an example of a technology that has benefited from California's clean energy policies. Mobi Gen is a generator that has a 80kwh battery that can be used to supplement or replace diesel and fossil fuel gas-fired generators for periods of time. While microgrids currently rely on fossil fuels for backup generation, we strongly support the development of backup generators and energy storage systems like Freewire's that will minimize and, ultimately, fully replace the need for fossil fuel backup generators.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://hazards.geoplatform.gov/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=ddf915a24fb24dc8863eed96bc3345f8>

<sup>2</sup> <https://freewiretech.com/products/mobi-gen/>



Additionally, as various stakeholders have noted, streamlining the distribution interconnection process is necessary to reduce microgrid development barriers. LACI strongly supports the Energy Commission's recommendation that the state provide guidance "to allow microgrids to complete a standard interconnection process in a timeframe that supports the overall installation and commissioning schedule of the microgrid" to reduce the 9 month - 12 month<sup>3</sup> timeline that companies can experience when interconnecting.

### **Strategic Deployment of Microgrid & Equitable Solutions**

LACI supports the IEPR's view of microgrids as a strategic technology solution for key locations and vulnerable communities to enhance reliability and resiliency. Microgrids provide critical reliability services on the grid as communities experience the damaging infrastructure consequences of climate change. For instance, the IEPR notes that the microgrid in Blue lake Rancheria was able to provide power to individuals who needed medical support during a power outage, ultimately saving 4 lives. For these reasons, we agree that as "microgrids are strategically deployed, the disproportionate impact of grid outages on low-income, tribal, rural, and disadvantaged communities should be a considered factor"<sup>4</sup>. To ensure the equitable deployment of microgrids in low-income and disadvantaged communities, LACI supports developing specific financial mechanisms such as incentive programs or tariffs to incentivize these deployments.

### **Consideration of Economic Development**

In LACI's *Green Jobs in Los Angeles Study 2021 Report*<sup>5</sup>, microgrids were identified as a way to accelerate the economic recovery. While microgrids are a mechanism to enhance community energy resilience, we also encourage the Energy Commission to note the local workforce opportunities that come with the development, deployment, and ongoing management and operation of microgrids. Specifically, we recommend the state consider green workforce training initiatives for low-income and disadvantaged communities that center around the various components that make up a microgrid - generation source, energy storage, centralized controller, and end customer load interconnection.

We appreciate the consideration of these comments and look forward to continuing to work with the Energy Commission and Staff on supporting the research and commercialization of microgrids in California as a way to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance grid reliability, and create local quality jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mayte Sanchez", written in a cursive style.

Mayte Sanchez  
Director of Energy  
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator

<sup>3</sup> Draft 2020 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Update, Volume II, page 11

<sup>4</sup> Draft 2020 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Update, Volume II, page 38

<sup>5</sup> <https://laincubator.org/wp-content/uploads/LACI-GREEN-JOBS-REPORT.pdf>