

DOCKETED

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Recommendation for open solicitations

I am writing to urge you to set aside a significant portion of your EPIC budget for open solicitations.

I think it's fantastic that California is trying to fill funding gaps in R&D in order to meet its aggressive zero-carbon goals. We are doing solar generation and storage R&D, so have been closely following the EPIC program looking for opportunities to apply for funding. Unfortunately, the solicitations are so narrowly focused that there hasn't been an opportunity for us in the years we have been tracking solicitations.

While I think I understand the reasons for your targeted approach, I feel that by funding mostly incremental improvements you are risking excluding the big out of the box ideas you need in order to add the 50+ GW of solar utility scale power and the 50 GW of storage needed to meet California's 2045 goals. It's hard increasing the rate of solar and wind build rates by 3x and storage by 8X without also looking at more radical ideas.

Here are two examples of the type of projects (that we are not affiliated with) that I don't think would be able to apply for EPIC funding because solicitations are too narrowly focused:

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/06/04/the-high-altitude-solar-farm-floating-to-success>

<https://www.power-technology.com/features/gravity-based-storage/>

Narrowly focused solicitations preclude funding areas that are not already known. For that reason I urge you to have a large segment of the EPIC funding be by open solicitation so that people and companies with potentially revolutionary ideas can also participate in the EPIC program.