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BUSINESS MEETING
BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )
)21-BUSMTG-01
Business Meeting )
______________________________)

REMOTE ACCESS ONLY

Public comment is accepted solely through the Zoom platform.

The California Energy Commission’s (CEC) December 8, 2021, Business Meeting will be held remotely, consistent with Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas, Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021) to improve and enhance public access to state meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options. The public can participate in the business meeting consistent with the direction provided below.

Please note that the CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda proposed. The business meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 20 section 1104(e), any person may make oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to three minutes or less per person. Any person wishing to comment on information items or reports (non-voting items) shall speak during the general public comment portion of the meeting and have three minutes or less to address all remaining comments.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021
10:00 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty
APPEARANCES

Commissioners (Via Remote)

David Hochschild, Chair
Siva Gunda, Vice Chair
Karen Douglas
Andrew McAllister
Patricia Monahan

Staff Present: (Via Remote)

Drew Bohan, Executive Director
Linda Barrera, Chief Counsel
Noemi Gallardo, Public Advisor
Lisa Worrall, Energy Commission Project Manager
Erik Brewer, Center for Transportation and the Environment
Bill Dietrich, Chief Counsel’s Office
Mike Gravely, Energy Systems Research Office

Agenda Item

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Lisa DeCarlo 2
Jared Babula 3
Christine Collopy 4
Quenby Lum 5
Alex Wan 6
Phil Cazel 7
Matthew Kozuch 8

Also Present: (Via Remote)

Invited Comments:

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Robert Sarvey, 2

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   b. Prospect Silicon Valley - Agreement ZVI-21-010.
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I N D E X (Cont.)

14. Chief Counsel's Report (Cont.)


   iii. Interlink Products International, Inc. v. Xavier Becerra, Drew Bohan, Melissa Rae King (United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:20-cv-02283)

   b. Pursuant to Government Code, section 11126, subdivisions (a) and (e), the CEC 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 constitute a significant exposure to litigation against the CEC, which might include personnel matters.

Adjournment

Reporter's Certificate

Transcriber's Certificate
PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 8, 2021 10:05 a.m.

(Start of Introductory Video.)

MS. MURIMI: Welcome to the California Energy Commission's Business Meeting.

Zoom's closed-captioning feature has been enabled to make Energy Commission business meetings more accessible. Attendees can use this feature by clicking on the “Live Transcript” icon and then selecting either “Show Subtitle” or “View Full Transcript.” Closed captioning can be stopped by closing out of the Live Transcript or selecting “Hide Subtitle.” Those participating solely by phone do not have the option for closed captioning.

The Energy Commission will continue to post the transcript of this business meeting rendered by a professional court reporter in the docket system and on the business meeting webpage.

Consistent with Assembly Bill 361 today's business meeting is being held remotely through Zoom to improve and enhance public access to state meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The public can participate in the business meeting consistent with the instruction for remote participation found in the notice of this meeting and as set forth in the agenda posted to the Energy Commission's website.
Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 20, section 1104(e) any person may make oral comments on any agenda item.

Once the public comment period begins if you'd like to speak, please raise your hand by clicking on the “Raise Hand” icon at the bottom of your screen. Please note that if Zoom were to shut down, we would switch to the Verizon phone line at 888-823-5065. The pass code is “Business Meeting.” Public comment would then be accepted through Verizon.

To ensure the orderly and fair conduct of business public comments will be limited to three minutes or less per person for each agenda item voted on today.

Any person wishing to comment on information items or reports which are non-voting items shall reserve their comment for the general public comment portion of the meeting and shall have a total of three minutes or less to state all remaining comments.

If you're joining by phone press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute. After the Public Advisor calls on you to speak spell your name and state your affiliation, if any.

Welcome to the California Energy Commission’s business meeting. The meeting will now begin.

(End of Introductory Video.)
(Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well good morning, friends.

I’m David Hochschild, Chair of the Energy Commission.

Today is Wednesday, December 8th, and we’ll call the business meeting to order. Joining me today are Vice Chair Gunda, Commissioner Douglas, Commissioner McAllister and Commissioner Monahan. We have a quorum.

And we will proceed to begin the business meeting by having Vice Chair Gunda lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Vice Chair Gunda.

We do have also an exciting event coming up this week on Friday. This Friday December 10th, from 2:00 to 3:30 we’ll be hosting the Clean Energy Hall of Fame Awards. This is the second annual event that we've done. We're going to be honoring six winners of this Hall of Fame Award who really are on the front lines leading the way to a clean energy future.

We've had a really exhaustive selection process. I want to personally thank the Selection Committee and everybody who was nominated and who participated in that. Our winners include, for a Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Peter Lehman, the Founding Director of the Schatz Energy...
Center. For our Youth Game-Changer Award, the Communities for a Better Environment’s Youth for Environmental Justice. And our Clean Energy Champion Award winners are Abigail Solis, Manager of Sustainable Energy Solutions at Self-Help Enterprises; Eddie Ahn, Executive Director of Brightline Defense; Nicole Capretz, Founder and Executive Director of the Climate Action Campaign; and Mutual Housing of California.

So, you can register for this event. It is free, but you do need to register, and the link is going to be sent out in the Zoom Chat.

And I would just say you look at how change happens in our world and it's really from the bottom up. We draw a lot of inspiration at the state level from these leaders at the local level. And what we do in turn at the State of California inspires a lot of positive change around the country and around the world. And so, I think we've had a tough couple of years here and I really would welcome everybody to come be inspired by seeing these amazing leaders and this award ceremony on Friday.

I'm also very excited to announce a major milestone, which is that today we're going to be voting on $730 million in grants during this business meeting. To my knowledge this is the single greatest amount of money that we have granted in a single meeting. We've done programs
like Prop 39 was $1.75 billion, but that was over several years. This is really an important milestone, and I want to just pay tribute to all the staff and all the different programs who helped develop these, to all the stakeholders for participating.

We are really at a watershed moment for the Commission and for the work we're doing. And that's really meeting the challenge of the moment that we're in together with climate, so I'm really excited to be considering and voting on all these grants today.

And I really want staff to take pride in this work. It is a lot of work to prepare these and they're going to do a lot of good, so take that to heart. As we wrap up the end of the year there's a lot to be thankful for and a lot to take stock of and I think this is a really strong finish. And I just want to thank everybody for leaning in so hard. It's not easy to put all this stuff together. But anyways I just wanted to note this is a very exciting day.

So, let's see, with that let's turn to Item 1 on the Consent Calendar. Madam Public Advisor, do we have any public comment on Item 1?

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. So I will remind our audience if you would like to make a comment on Item 1, the Consent Calendar, please
use the raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you are on by
phone please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.

Chair, I do not see any hands. We can proceed.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Unless there is any
Commissioner discussion, Vice Chair Gunda, would you be
willing to move Item 1?
COMMISSIONER GUNDA: Yes, Chair, thank you. I
move Item 1.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And so, Commissioner Monahan,
would you be willing to second?
COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. All in favor say aye.
Vice Chair Gunda?
VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?
COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?
COMMISSIONER McALLISTER: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Commissioner Douglas?
COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That
item passes unanimously.

Let's turn now to Item 2, Small Power Plant
(SPPE) for the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility.

MR. LEE: Good morning, Chair Hochschild and
Commissioners. I’m Ralph Lee with the Chief Counsel's Office appearing on behalf of the Committee that the Energy Commission appointed to preside over the proceeding and review of the Applicant SV1, LLC’s application for a Small Power Plant Exemption, known as an SPPE, for the proposed Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility in San Jose, California.

The Committee proposes that the Energy Commission adopt the Committee's Proposed Decision. The Committee Proposed Decision reflects the Committee's careful consideration of the evidence submitted by the parties as well as the public comments received. The Committee Proposed Decision recommends that the Energy Commission certify a final Environmental Impact Report, known as the final EIR for the Great Oaks South Data Center Project, of which the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility is one part.

The Proposed Decision also recommends that the Energy Commission grant a small power plant exemption to the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility, because it would meet the requirements of the Warren-Alquist Act including that it would generate less than 100 megawatts, it would have no significant impact on the environment or on energy resources.

What the Applicant proposes is to construct and
operate an approximately 547,000 square foot data center located in San Jose California at 123, 127 and 131 Great Oaks Boulevard. The primary purpose of the proposed data center would be to house IT technology and computer servers for private clients in a secure and environmentally controlled structure. The backup generating facility would consist of 36 individual 3.25-megawatt diesel-fired emergency backup generators, 6 of which would be redundant, and also three 0.5-megawatt life safety emergency generators.

All generators would be located onsite. No electricity that's generated by the backup generating facility could be distributed offsite. The backup generating facility would generate up to 99 megawatts of power, which would be the maximum demand of the data center.

The backup generating facility would serve the data center as a backup for its primary power supply delivered by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, commonly known as PG&E. The electricity would be supplied by either PG&E or the community-choice energy aggregator San Jose Clean Energy. The backup generators would be run for testing and maintenance, but otherwise usually would not operate unless there is an interruption of power from the local electric utility.
Under the Warren-Alquist Act section 25541, the Energy Commission may grant a small power plant exemption only when it makes three separate and distinct findings. First, that the proposed power plant has a generating capacity of up to 100 megawatts. Second, that no substantial adverse impact on the environment will result from the construction or operation of the power plant. And third, that no substantial adverse impact on energy resources will result from the construction or operation of the power plant.

In addition, the Energy Commission acts as the lead agency under CEQA. In reviewing a small power plant exemption, the Energy Commission considers the whole of the action. For this particular application the whole of the action means the backup generating facility, the data center, and other related features such as parking and landscaping. Collectively these are known as the Project.

Please note that if the Energy Commission adopts the Committee Proposed Decision that adoption would not approve the project. Instead, if the Energy Commission grants a small power plant exemption the Applicant would still be required to obtain permits and licenses from other local agencies before it would be allowed to be built and operated. In this case, those agencies would include the city of San Jose and the Bay Area Air Quality Management
District. Those agencies will also conduct any other
environmental analysis necessary as responsible agencies
under CEQA.

Now turning to the findings, the Proposed
Decision found that the generating capacity of a facility
that cannot distribute power offsite should be calculated
based on the maximum load of the project as well as by any
permanent design constrictions that limit the amount of
power that can be delivered from the facility. In this
case the project’s maximum demand includes the demand of
the computer servers housed in the data center and the
cooling and lighting demands of the building. The
project’s demand was calculated to be no more than 99
megawatts, which would be fixed by the use of electrical
equipment and would be an upper-capacity limit.

The Committee has proposed a Condition of
Exemption PD-1 to ensure that if the configuration of the
data center were to change in a way that would result in
any increase in the electrical demand any such alteration,
change, or modification shall be subject to the
requirements set forth in the regulations of the Energy
Commission relating to changes in project design,
operation, or performance and amendments.

The Committee’s also proposed Condition of
Exemption PD-2 that precludes any of the electricity from
the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility from being used for any other facility, property or use, including but not limited to delivery to the electric distribution system known as the Grid without the express authorization of the Energy Commission.

The Proposed Decision concludes that the project’s generating capacity meets the requirements of the Warren-Alquist Act.

Regarding the environmental review of the project, the project includes design features and mitigation -- excuse me -- includes design features to mitigate or avoid potential environmental effects of the project. Staff prepared an environmental review document, the final EIR, which proposes additional mitigation measures for air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, paleontological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise. The Proposed Decision includes these additional mitigation measures.

Granting a Small Power Plant Exemption requires the Energy Commission to adopt a mitigation monitoring or reporting program. A recommended mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project is attached to the Proposed Decision in Appendix B.

CEQA also requires that the Energy Commission may delegate reporting or monitoring responsibilities to
another public agency that accepts the delegation. For this project, the City of San Jose has agreed to monitor the Applicant’s performance of the mitigation measures that the Committee has recommended.

Staff prepared the final EIR. The Committee considered the final EIR during the Committee's adjudicatory process and the Proposed Decision includes it as Appendix A. On the basis of Appendix A, and the entire record and with the imposition and implementation of the mitigation measures, the Proposed Decision includes Findings of Fact and conclusions of law regarding the adequacy of our environmental review for both CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act. The Proposed Decision specifically finds that the project will have no adverse impacts on the environment.

The Proposed Decision also concludes that the project would not have any adverse impact on energy resources. This finding is recommended for the Energy Commission in its role as the lead agency under CEQA and is required under the Warren-Alquist Act.

As usual, the public was presented a full opportunity to participate at every stage of this proceeding. We had meaningful and substantive participation from the parties, including the Applicant, staff and one intervenor, Robert Sarvey. The Energy
Commission received comments on the project after the scoping meeting in late 2020. The Energy Commission received comments from Nick Renna, Claire Warshaw, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, LH, the Oak Grove School District, and the Native American Heritage Commission. The Energy Commission also received public comments on the draft EIR from Claire Warshaw, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Applicant, the City of San Jose and Enchanted Rock.

The Committee provided Notice of Availability for its Proposed Decision on November 24th, 2021. This Notice of Availability was sent electronically to the Proof of Service List and the listserv and was sent via U.S. mail to a list of property owners, occupants, and responsible and trustee agencies. The Notice of Availability invited written comments on the Proposed Decision, and it asked that written comments be received no later than December 6th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

We received comments from the Intervenor Robert Sarvey, and from Energy Commission staff. Intervenor Sarvey’s comments on the Proposed Decision essentially repeat the contentions he raised in his post-hearing brief, all of which have been appropriately addressed in the Committee Proposed Decision, including without limitation on Pages 34 through 40.
Intervenor Sarvey may speak for himself regarding his comments. If he does speak staff, the Project Applicant, or I can be ready to address any questions the Commission may have about his comments. Nothing in his written comments on the Proposed Decision establish an unmitigated significant environmental impact, nor do they otherwise prevent or provide any other basis to reject the Committee’s Proposed Decision.

Staff’s comments on the Proposed Decision recommend an errata containing two clarifications. One clarification is that staff consented to the City of San Jose’s request for an extension to file its comments on the draft EIR. A second clarification is that the findings regarding the project’s operation emissions on Page 29 of the Committee Proposed Decision account for the fact that NOx emissions will be fully offset during the permitting process with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which is already stated in the Proposed Decision as part of the discussion that proceeded those findings. Staff’s proposed clarifications do not change the Proposed Decision’s Findings of Fact or conclusions of law.

The Committee recommends granting staff’s request for an errata reflecting these clarifications and adopting the errata to the Proposed Decision that was filed in the docket today at about 8:50 this morning.
I therefore recommend that the Energy Commission adopt the proposed order on the Committee Proposed Decision that was filed in the docket for this proceeding on November 24th, 2021, with a modification to the first paragraph on Page 1 of the Order to incorporate the errata by deleting the bracketed material and replacing it with an errata, dated December 8th, 2021. And also adding a footnote to the docket transaction number for the errata, which is TN 240873.

And with that the proposed order adopts the committee-Proposed Decision as modified by the errata as the Energy Commission's own final decision certifies the final EIR and makes the findings required to grant a Small Power Plant Exemption. I’m available to respond to any questions; otherwise the parties may address the Commission, thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank so much, Ralph.

With that let's move on to comments from staff and welcome Lisa DeCarlo.

MS. DECARLO: Thank you. Good morning, Chair, Commissioners. Lisa DeCarlo, Energy Commission Staff Attorney. With me today is Lisa Worrall, Energy Commission Project Manager for this proceeding as well as numerous technical staff who are available to respond to any technical questions Commissioners may have.
Staff would like to thank Commissioner Douglas, Chair Hochschild and your respective Advisors and Hearing Officers Ralph Lee and Susan Cochran for your leadership in this proceeding, as well as the Applicant and Mr. Robert Sarvey for their participation.

The proposed Commission decision represents the culmination of over a year and a half worth’s of work on the part of the parties, responsible agencies, and the Committee. And presents a thorough and reasoned analysis of the proposed project and its potential impacts. Staff fully supports the adoption of the Committee’s Proposed Decision with the errata filed this morning.

As Hearing Officer Lee noted the only comments received on the Committee Proposed Decision, other than staff’s, were from the only Intervenor in this proceeding Mr. Sarvey. His comments reiterate comments he has made previously, including at the evidentiary hearing and in prior proceedings. And focus on whether the facility’s potential to emit criteria pollutants during emergency operations must be modeled.

The Commission has already answered this question with a “no” in its approval of the exemption for the Sequoia Data Center earlier this year. The uncontroverted evidence in the record of the proceeding currently before you, shows that no agency routinely models emergency
operations of backup generators for the purpose of evaluating the significance of criteria-polluting impacts under CEQA. There is no expert consensus about how such an evaluation should be conducted in order to produce meaningful information about such a project’s potential impacts. And there is no consensus about what operational profile or profiles is reasonable to assume for the modeling. And no consensus as to how to evaluate the results of such modeling in order to determine whether it reflects a significant impact or not.

Mr. Sarvey relies heavily on BAAQMD’s written comments for his argument, but as BAAQMD itself notes, the comments are offered as recommendations to enhance the CEQA analysis. BAAQMD does not assert in its comments that the absence of the modeling of criteria-pollutant emissions that may result from potential emergency operations is fatally deficient under CEQA.

Mr. Sarvey also invokes comments made by the Air Resources Board, but fails to mention that those comments were made before the project was modified to add selective catalytic reduction, thereby making the engines Tier 4 compliant, containing the strictest emissions controls available to backup diesel generators. CARB has not commented subsequent to this project change.

Staff provided substantial evidence to support
the conclusion that emergency operations at this facility would be infrequent and of short duration if they occurred at all and thus would not result in significant adverse impacts. The limited data BAAQMD recently gathered and on which Mr. Sarvey relies does not prove otherwise. The project would be located in a highly reliable location on the grid and is unlikely to be affected by a public safety shut-off event.

California continues to make headway on strategies to prevent and address grid stress during extreme heat events. And this project won't be online during the small window of potential vulnerability identified for the summer of 2022.

CEQA does not require an agency to speculate about the unlikely impacts. And the Committee Proposed Decision provides a thorough discussion of potential impacts resulting from the proposed project without engaging in such speculation.

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the Proposed Decision and is available to answer any questions.

Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thanks so much, Lisa.

With that let's turn to Scott Galati on behalf of the Applicant.

MR. GALATI: Good morning, Chair, good morning,
Commissioners. Thank you very much for this opportunity to address you and we obviously are representing Equinix. We ask that you adopt the Proposed Decision with the errata that we support.

I’d like to make a few comments, really letting the Committee know, thank you for your thorough analysis in the Proposed Decision. We think that it is both thorough, address the issues, and is legally defensible.

In addition, we'd like to thank Lisa DeCarlo and Lisa Worrall for helping us and working closely with us on getting to a finally EIR that we also think is thorough and legally defensible.

We also would reiterate that nothing raised in the comments on the Proposed Decision, other than what you've addressed in the errata, would change any of the analysis or conclusions that you've made.

Just to hit one more time with the punch line, is these emergency generators are an insurance policy. That is what they are. We hope to never turn them on. We hope for the stability of the grid to never require it. And even though we've gone through some very unstable times over the last couple of summers Equinix did not have to turn on its emergency generators in its other facilities. So we do have a very stable grid. It is continuing to become more stable. I think that you will find that these
generators operate in a very, very small fashion for
testing and maintenance and now they are equipped with the
best available control technology that exists.

We'd also like to identify for you that these
facilities are incredibly important to our infrastructure.
They’re incredibly important to a very big piece of
California’s economy. The Equinix Project is the first
project that has proposed an alternative to making sure
that all the energy that it either uses is either offset by
RECs or actual deliverable electricity. And in fact, has
achieved the goal of being 100 percent carbon-neutral in
North America. Most of their facilities, many of their
facilities are here in California.

So, we would ask once again that you approve the
project. And let us get back to the City of San Jose who
is also very important and nice to work with. A special
shout-out to Adam Petersen and David Keyon in working with
us on the greenhouse gas reduction strategy that they were
adopting at the time this project was here.

I’d also like to call out Ms. Gallardo. The
public outreach was important. There was quite a bit of
public comment at the very beginning of the project, though
most of that was some confusion with the Energy
Commission’s terminology. As a small power plant, I think
most people were thinking that there was going to be a
power plant around the corner, as opposed to a data center with some backup generating facilities. But once that was cleared up, I think that we were able to address all of the issues. I think that was that the process worked and that's how it should work, and we appreciate that.

So again, we thank you for the opportunity and we are here to answer any questions. And we look forward to starting to build this project. Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Mr. Galati.

Let's turn next to Robert Sarvey as the Intervenor.

MR. SARVEY: Good morning, Commissioners. I want to thank the Committee for allowing me to participate. And I want to thank the City of San Jose for requiring complete mitigation of the project’s GHG emissions. Failure do so in the last five data centers you approved will lead to a potential 700,000 metric tons of GHG emissions per year that remain unmitigated.

Commissioners, the California Air Resources Board, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District have asked you in this proceeding and several other data center proceedings to model the emergency emissions from this and other data center projects. Unfortunately, this Proposed Decision continues to allow 100-plus megawatt diesel arrays (phonetic) to operate without understanding
their impact on the environment or the public.

Essentially the PD refuses to analyze what will happen if this project runs in emergency mode, which is the stated purpose of the project. I don't understand how the Air Resources Board and BAAQMD can be ignored.

On July 6th, BAAQMD submitted a CEQA comment letter on the draft EIR for this project. In its comments BAAQMD repeats its CEQA recommendation. Backup generators are operating more frequently than previously understood because of climate change-induced crisis and grid-operational challenges. And as such it is critical to consider the impacts of operating the emergency backup diesel generators. This communication occurred long after BAAQMD’s December 2020 Tier 4 mandates. So staff assertion that somehow BAAQMD does not want these emergency operations evaluated is not true.

Common sense says the purpose of the project should be evaluated to inform the public and you decision makers, and that's a requirement of CEQA. Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Mr. Sarvey.

Let's turn now to public comment. Madam Public Advisor, do we have public comment on Item 2?

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. I’d like to remind the audience or our attendees, if you'd like to make a public comment to please use the
raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you are on by phone, please raise your hand by pressing *9 and then *6 to unmute.

I am looking for hands now. I do not see any, Chair.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

MS. GALLARDO: We can continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well, thank you to all the staff and the parties’ speakers today for all the comments. I served as Associate Member on this committee and just wanted to extend my appreciation to everybody, and especially to Commissioner Douglas for her tremendous leadership on these complex and ongoing issues and her service on this committee.

And with that I would turn it over to Commissioner Douglas who was the Presiding Member. And first by asking, also, if you think we need a closed session. And if not if you wanted to share any comment.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right, thank you Chair Hochschild. I do not think we need a closed session on this item. I appreciate the question.

And in terms -- and I do have some comments. I wanted to ask Hearing Officer Lee, did you hear anything that you wanted to respond to? I don't have any follow up questions particularly, but I wanted to offer the
opportunity.

MR. LEE: No, thank you. I would just say that his oral comments today repeat his written comments in the post-hearing brief. And the Committee Proposed Decision adequately addresses these comments.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, thank you, Mr. Lee.

I wanted to just provide some notes of appreciation as well to Chair Hochschild, the Associate Member on this committee, and his Advisor Le-Quyen Nguyen. And staff, and Applicant, and Intervenor Sarvey, for all of you for your work throughout this process, and Technical Advisor Jon Hilliard as well as my advisors. And, of course, the Hearing Office team, Hearing Officer Lee. And I know you had a strong team behind you, because we spoke with them frequently through the course of this proceeding.

I also wanted to just emphasize that we did, of course, get important input and comments from Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the City of San Jose. And this is actually the first SPPE proceeding in which staff has prepared an Environmental Impact Report. And this environmental document allowed for a robust evaluation of potential environmental and energy resource impacts, including analyzing a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed projects.
I also wanted to underscore again -- and I know we talked about this every time one of these comes up -- but the CEC proposed action today is not in itself an approval of the Applicant’s proposed project as Mr. Galati noted. What the CEC approval does is it would exempt the project from the CEC’s Application for Certification, or AFC process, but the project must still obtain approvals from the City of San Jose and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

So, the Committee Proposed Decision includes the findings necessary to grant the SPPE. Hearing Officer Lee thoroughly covered the key points in his presentation. And before, I think this might be the right point to ask if Chair Hochschild, as the Associate Member, would like to make any additional remarks on this matter.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: No additional remarks from my side. I’m in support. And unless there are other Commissioners wishing to comment on this, I would invite a motion from you, Commissioner Douglas, whenever you're ready.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I do have one question actually.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Yeah, please go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Just quickly, so I understand and agree with everything that’s been said on
this by staff and Commissioner Douglas as well. And so I understand that, the landscape. I guess, maybe I would like to ask staff, a little bit more about the role of the Bay Area AQMD just in terms of we obviously all have to be concerned about the air quality impacts and the greenhouse gas emissions, particulates, etcetera. I understand Mr. Galati’s point that there is a best available control technology in place on this, or there will be on this project if it gets constructed. But I just wanted to make sure that -- put on the record and sort of ask staff to tell us a little bit more about Bay Area's process to make sure that those emissions are actually covered from an overall environmental impact perspective.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, a good question.

MS. DECARLO: And I invite Wenjun to jump on and Joseph Hughes to kind of weigh in on that. I can briefly say that should the exemption go forward; the project will have to get a permit from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. And it will thoroughly impose all of its permit requirements on the project, including limitations on the number of hours the project can test its generators, so yeah.

And in terms of emergency operations, we really don't -- the evidence in the record doesn't show that these facilities will operate a significant amount of time. And
so we feel that with the selective catalytic reduction, the
diesel particulate filters applied to the generators, and
the limitations on the operations, at least in a routine
fashion, that the project will not create a significant
adverse impact as a result of potential generator
operations.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great, thanks very
much. And in terms of incrementality the Bay Area, as I
understand it, has to take into account the sort of sum
total of emissions in the Basin and sort of make sure that
they're taking that overall view. And sort of putting this
particular project, if it's to be constructed for the
permitting process, in that broader context to make sure
that the incremental emissions are taken care of, right?

MS. DECARLO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So, I wanted to just
make sure that point was made. Anybody want to add
anything to that?

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Scott Galati, were you going
to say something on that?

MR. GALATI: Yes, I would just like to also
remind the Committee that the emissions for NOx will be
offset by the Applicant by and/or through the Bay Area's
process to ensure that those offsets are done in a net air
quality benefit range. And those will be offset based on
the projected use for testing and maintenance even though we always project a little more use than we actually run.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I did have one additional question, just on SCR. What is the total cost to add the SCR process for a backup generator facility such as this?

MR. GALATI: I'll do my best to answer that. I think that the SCR under diesel particulate filters are between $300,000 and a million dollars per machine.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Got it. Okay, helpful.

Any other questions or comments? If not, Commissioner Douglas I’d welcome a motion on this item from you.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, let me just ask Ralph Lee again to clarify the motion, because he had something about -- he had a couple of substitutions too in order to pull the errata.

MR. LEE: Yes. I propose the motion should be to adopt the proposed order on Committee Proposed Decision that was filed in the docket for this proceeding on November 24th, 2021, with a modification to the first paragraph on Page 1 to incorporate the errata by deleting the bracketed material and replacing it with an errata dated December 8th, 2021. And also adding a footnote to the Docket Transaction Number for the errata, which is TN 240873.
COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, thank you, Mr. Lee. So moved.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Commissioner McAllister would you be willing to second?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTERS: I’ll second this item.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay all in favor say aye, Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTERS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That item passes unanimously.

Let’s turn now to Item 3, Orders Changing Rulemaking Proceeding for Amendments to Procedures for Delegating Geothermal Certification Authority for SPPEs.

MR. BABULA: Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Jared Babula. I am an attorney in the Chief Counsel’s Office. I am here today seeking approval for an order instituting a rulemaking proceeding to amend two powerplant siting-related processes. Next slide.

Before discussing the two processes subject to
the order I want to identify three specific benefits of this rulemaking, which can be described as: Align,
Modernize, and Streamline.

Align: The Governor’s emergency proclamation last summer directed the CEC to perform any and all actions to accelerate the state’s transition to carbon-free energy. Assessing and amending the regulatory language will provide an opportunity to ensure powerplant siting processes align with the state's carbon-free and renewable energy goals and to accelerate those procurement processes.

Modernize: The specific provisions at issue date back to the late 1970s and have never been significantly amended. Since then, many changes have occurred in California’s electricity sector and related regulatory and market environments.

For example, the CEC’s needs assessments for power plants that were highly contentious when utilities were vertically integrated, meaning they both generated and distributed electricity, are less contentious in a deregulated electricity market. Thus, the language is due for a review.

Streamline: Amending the language will allow for the removal of redundant layers of process while preserving the CEC’s detailed environmental review as well as the agency and public engagement under CEQA. Next slide.
The CEC has exclusive licensing authority over thermal powerplants 50 megawatts or larger which includes geothermal powerplants. The Warren-Alquist Act authorizes the CEC to delegate, as appropriate, licensing authority to counties for geothermal powerplants. The process for such delegation as currently set forth in the CEC’s regulations is complex, time-consuming and has never been utilized. The order before you would direct staff to work with stakeholders to improve the process allowing for a potential avenue for more efficient licensing of geothermal powerplants thus expanding renewable energy generation.

The second process subject to this order is a small power plant exemption process. The Warren-Alquist Act provides that the CEC can exempt thermal powerplants 100 megawatts or less from its jurisdiction if certain findings are made. Like the geothermal regulations the small power plant exemption regulations are dated and in need of amendments to improve the process for exempting these smaller projects to achieve the benefits noted in the previous slide. Because the CEC continues to act as lead agency under CEQA for these exemptions the CEC will continue to provide a robust environmental review and opportunities for public and agency input as required under CEQA regardless of amendments made to CEC’s SPPE procedures. Next slide.
Staff recommends approval of the Order Instituting the Rulemaking authorizing staff, under the guidance of the Lead Commissioner, to carry out the rulemaking process consistent with the Administrative Procedures Act and California Environmental Quality Act and to present the proposed regulations at a future business meeting for adoption.

This concludes my presentation. I am available to answer any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Jared.

Let's turn to public comment on Item 3.

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor, reminding attendees if you would like to make a comment on Item Number 3 please use the raise hand feature. If you are on by phone press *9 to raise your hand and then *6 to unmute.

I do see a hand raised. This is Scott Galati. Scott, just a reminder to spell your name for the record, indicate your affiliation if any. I am opening your line and you may begin.

MR. GALATI: My name is Scott Galati, and I am with a company called DayZen, LLC, which is my own company and so representing myself in this particular comment period.

We thank the Commissioner very much for opening

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such a rulemaking. We do believe that some of the
regulations date back to 1975. And we have moved into a
different ability to evaluate things, including the primary
reason that I’m supporting these regulation changes is that
CEQA has evolved over time since these regulations actually
were adopted. And the CEQA process is sufficient to ensure
a robust analysis as well as public input.

The second part of the process in an SPPE or a
geothermal SPPE process or a licensing process would
involve lengthy committee time, intervenor testimony, the
kinds of things that are necessary, in my opinion, to
protect the environment and to allow public participation
on something as intrusive as a large power plant. But not
necessary under our current laws of CEQA for something,
let's say, like a data center. Those are very -- the
issues are a very local concern and less statewide concern.
And we’ll participate -- on behalf of many of my clients --
we’ll participate in the actual language changes. And we
look forward to that.

And we thank the Committee and the Commissioners
extremely a lot for undertaking this. I think it's
necessary and it will be beneficial to the state for
critical infrastructure. Thank you.

MS. GALLARDO: All right, thank you.

I do not see any other hands raised, Chair. I
think we can continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

Let's turn now to Commissioner Douglas.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Right, thank you, Chair Hochschild. And thank you, Jared, for your great presentation.

As Jared said this rulemaking is an example of the Energy Commission's increasing and continued focus on ensuring reliability and responding to the Governor's direction in his July 30th State of Emergency Proclamation for the state's energy agencies to accelerate plans for the construction, procurement and rapid deployment of new clean energy and storage projects.

What we are exploring here is ways of streamlining and accelerating administrative processes for small power plant exemptions and for potential delegation of authority to counties to permit geothermal power plants without compromising important provisions and safeguards for public and health, environmental protections, public participation, and reliability requirements of CEQA and the Warren-Alquist Act.

And the CEQA process itself is a very robust process. We utilize that process for SPPEs and I really think -- and then of course in our current process we have an adjudicative layer on top of that. And I really think
for the kinds of projects that fall within the SPPE process, doing a CEQA analysis with all of the safeguards and public participation and agency coordination that is involved is appropriate and sufficient.

I'd also like to point out that the proposed changes complement the June 2021 Public Utilities Commission decision to procure 11,500 megawatts of new net-qualifying capacity electricity resources before 2026. On this, these proposed changes, both parts of these proposed changes could support geothermal permitting and support achievement of that goal, as well as the state's vision for supporting development of Lithium Valley and the Salton Sea region, where existing. And also new geothermal power plants can also be utilized to produce lithium from brines from the geothermal reservoir under the Salton Sea.

So happy to answer any questions or engage in any discussion on this, but I do think this is an important initiative.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much Commissioner.

Any comments on this? Vice Chair Gunda, please.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, thank you Chair Hochschild, thank you Commissioner Douglas, and Jared thank you for that presentation and the briefing on this.

Coming into this business meeting, as with any
process improvements extremely supportive of kind of doing this work to both support the long-term resource planning, but also just improving the state processes and ensuring the transparency that we continue to work on. So I think, as we move forward on the process, I mean I'm absolutely supportive of this. I just want to put a couple of plugs for consideration for the staff as we move forward. I think the energy landscape is changing a lot and we are in this moment of incredible transition.

And there is also this requirement of CEC continuing to modernize the way we gather data and really put that out there for consumption and track and provide real-time insights. I just want to think about the data-gathering and data-dissemination element as we think through this OIR if there are opportunities to complement improvements to the QFER data, anything as it pertains to geothermal, because it's going to play a huge role.

But also, to the comments on the previous item, I think there's opportunities to gather information on the SPPEs as we grant them, to think through what could be some beneficial information for the state as a whole, so we can put that out. So I just want to put that for consideration.

Again Jared, to you and the entire legal team, thank you for your work on this. I look forward to
supporting the item.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Vice Chair Gunda. Any other? Yes, Commissioner Monahan, please.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I'll just be brief, but I also want to thank Commissioner Douglas and Jared for their leadership on this. Both as Vice Chair Gunda said for the sake of meeting our clean energy goals by accelerating geothermal deployment permitting, but also just cutting unnecessary red tape when it comes to SPPEs. I think this is a better process, it's more effective. And I just want to emphasize that moving from the adjudicative process to this one will, I think, enhance our ability to oversight these facilities. So just very strongly supportive of this.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioners.

Unless there are other comments from Commissioners, Commission Douglas, would you be willing to move the item?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah, I move approval this item.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. How about Commissioner Monahan, would you be willing to second that?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second it.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, all in favor say aye. Commissioner Douglas?
COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?
COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?
COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?
VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That item passes unanimously thanks to everyone.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: We’ll turn now to Item 4, Touchstone Benchmarking, LLC.

MS. COLLOPY: Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioners. I am Christine Collopy, the Assistant Deputy Director of the Efficiency Division. Today I will be presenting Item 4, which is a request to approve an agreement with Touchstone Benchmarking, LLC, to support the CEC’s statewide building energy benchmarking program. Next slide, please.

The Touchstone Benchmarking agreement tracks the energy performance of a specific building, allowing building owners and tenants to track energy use over time and compare one building’s energy performance against another building.

It creates a single, statewide covered-buildings list for commercial and multifamily buildings. And this
will ensure that the CEC is only contacting building owners who are required to comply with the statewide program.

It amplifies existing outreach and education efforts, including offering building owners an individualized energy scorecard.

It improves data quality by providing automatic error-checking for submittals and provides regular downloads from the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager database.

These benefits together will yield improved compliance rates for the CEC’s statewide benchmarking program. And allows staff to identify customized opportunities for improving building energy efficiency.

Next slide, please.

The proposed scope of work with Touchstone Benchmarking includes an annually updated covered-buildings list of all commercial and multifamily buildings in California required to comply with the program.

The proprietary Touchstone Benchmarking cloud-based solution includes software system setup and integration, software and database configuration, data collection and tracking, a dashboard for reporting, a building owner scorecard, and technical support for our CEC staff.

Funding for this agreement is from the Cost of Implementation Account or COIA. Next slide, please.
This agreement also includes development of a customized, interactive statewide map with enhanced visuals including individual building performance metrics such as ENERGY STAR score and energy use intensity, provides the ability to compare buildings by size, type and location. And building data will be compiled annually for historical year-over-year comparison. Next slide, please.

Should this agreement be approved today, Touchstone Benchmarking will have the California Covered-Buildings List developed and the benchmarking platform stood up by June of 2022. Next slide, please.

Staff recommends approval of this Touchstone Benchmarking agreement to support the CEC’s statewide building energy benchmarking program. Thank you, and I’m available for any questions.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

Let's turn to public comment.

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. Reminder to attendees if you'd like to make a comment on Item 4, please raise your hand using the raise hand icon, it looks like a high-five on the screen. If you're on by phone, please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.

Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We can proceed.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Let’s turn to Commissioner McAllister to make it a start.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well let's see, so I’m in full support of this item and wanted to provide just a tiny bit of context. We've been operating this benchmarking program that flowed from Assembly Bill 802 and we put that together and have been operating it. We built an in-house -- really we built a dashboard that many, probably all of you have seen, and has provided really good insight into the data that's being collected.

And this industry or this approach to incentivizing building performance has matured quite a bit over the last few years and I want to give props to our team for really being a part of that evolution, our whole benchmarking team. Christine, you've been a real incredible leader in this, so thank you for the presentation and just for all your efforts on sort of enriching our data landscape, including on the benchmarking side of things. And a number of staff been involved in that project over the years, and I think it's really produced good results.

And now this enables us to kind of take it to the next level and as Christine said really get a more rigorous and systematic view of the buildings that are required to comply with our benchmarking statute. And right now,
that's at 50,000 square feet and up multifamily and nonresidential buildings, so relatively large ones.

And the prospects for this benchmarking approach and building on it are really bright. So certainly, we would like to lower -- we’d like to include more buildings in this sort of rich data environment and understand the buildings more. And so lowering the floor down to 20,000 square feet, something like that, will be a good idea, going forward.

And then also taking the benchmarking data and moving towards a building performance standards approach, where we really sort of give people a goal to shoot for over the coming decade or so. And then provide program support to help them do that, really starting with sort of low-income and affordable housing and all sorts of different building types that are going to be different kinds of initiatives. So really what we're doing creating the conditions, the knowledge base so that people can really invest intelligently around improving the performance of their buildings.

And so this tool really kind of, I think, raises the -- well it standardizes in a way that other jurisdictions are also doing and it also kind of raises the level of the program. And Christine ticked off some of the reasons how that's going to happen, but overall it'll
create a covered list that gives us much more insight into who's complying and who's not, it'll increase compliance, I think, just by that transparency effort, and it’ll also enable us to follow up with the buildings that aren't complying. And then eventually, if and when we get a building performance standard or we put it in programs that are going to actively incentivize and encourage building owners to invest in their buildings to improve performance, then this provides the information for us to target those efforts.

And this really is where we have to go. We know we have to get our existing buildings improved and decarbonized. And that's really the big nut that we have to crack, and this is a sort of structured basis for moving forward with those efforts.

And so again I want to just thank Christine and the whole staff on benchmarking and the Efficiency Division and IT actually, for all the work they've done on the dashboard. And in full support of this of this item.

I would finally just call out our partnership with ENERGY STAR on this. They have invested in the performance, in the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, which is really the industry standard tool. And the Biden Administration is looking at how they can improve it, constantly further, and we're involved in those
conversations as well. And I just want to give props to
the ENERGY STAR, the EPA team. It's on all things ENERGY
STAR, but particularly Portfolio Manager. And also the
resources that they have put together and are developing
further for building performance standards, so they've got
a good toolkit for that as well.

So, this partnership, I think, with across the
various states that are doing it and the localities, I see
many cities are now doing benchmarking. And with the
Federal Government, I think, is really positive and
portends well for the future. And then the White House has
taken up building performance standards as a policy tool
that they really want to promote and so we're working with
the CDQ there also to sort of assist that effort in any way
that's helpful.

So anyway, a little bit broader context for this
item. and I'm very supportive of the Touchstone contract.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner. I
really appreciate you calling out ENERGY STAR. It's really
a tremendous program. I know it had been somewhat
denigrated previously, but I just really share your
sentiments about the value of that.

Other Commissioners? Yes, Vice Chair Gunda,
please go ahead.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, thank you, Chair
Hochschild. And thank you, Commissioner McAllister, for adding that additional context. And thank you Christine for going through the overview of this proposed support -- sorry, I’m just completely blanking on my words today. I stayed up too late. Just kidding, but I just wanted to make two quick points.

I think to Commissioner McAllister’s earlier comments, the evolution of the benchmarking has been very interesting to observe. And with the new IMD (phonetic) data that's coming in, and then this work I think there’s incredible opportunity for us to really help make buildings, the division of having buildings be a true part of the grid resiliency and support and performance. So I just wanted to acknowledge that, that importance of this work and the related importance, so just thank you Commissioner McAllister for that.

And then also just anytime we do this data work it's just as a good point to recognize the incredible staff we have that are trying to take advantage of all the data we have and provide analysis. I also want to call out Jason Harville for his efforts at the enterprise level to modernize infrastructure, but also to just acknowledge Efficiency Division specifically about the work that they have been doing, both on the benchmarking side, the pace side; just kind of taking advantage of the data that we are
getting in. So this is one more incremental movement
towards modernizing our overall efforts.

And finally, Commissioner McAllister, thank you.
I know it's been a 10,15-year slog on the data side and
thanks for keeping up that momentum on improving our
overall data vision for the Commission. So yeah, looking
forward to supporting it and really thrilled about this
work.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well said. And so with that
unless there's other comments Commissioner McAllister, I’d
welcome a motion from you on Item 4.

COMMISSIONER McALLISTER: Yes, I will.
One final comment actually. And I can't - the
data back and forth, I mean Commissioner Gunda is such a
great partner on all the data work. And it's super-
exciting. I mean it's hard to kind of contain our
enthusiasm, right? Curb your enthusiasm about all the
different kind of cross-cutting issues that we're going to
be just much more in the know about. And we're going to be
able to let loose staff on some really interesting issues,
including around building performance and benchmarking.

But this is a key industry. You know, energy
efficiency already is hundreds of thousands of jobs in our
state. But as we, both at the Commission and sort of
facilitating outside the Commission in ways that obviously
don't impede, that don’t sort of go – you know, that respect everyone's privacy. And obviously, that is of upmost importance. And Jason, I agree, did a great job there.

This industry needs these kinds of insights: the performance, and the building level, and the appliance level, and the reliability conversation on how aggregated DERs are going to really help the grid function. Those programs necessarily are derivatives. They're not metered energy, they're not metered power, right? They’re derivatives of metered information. And so this analytical piece is a key element to really getting it done on the demand side, which is different from a supply side.

And so I think we always have to sort of say, “Look, we know that there is a lot of potential in the demand side, but we really have to go the extra mile to create the conditions that we can quantify it and make it accountable. And so I think all of these efforts really are working towards that overall goal. And I just have to give props again to Vice Chair Gunda for all the conversation on the reliability side and keeping, creating the conditions of equivalence that we really can. We are approaching the demand side with the level of rigor that's necessary. So this is one small piece of that overall kind of approach. But the context, it always helps to kind of
keep reinforcing that that we're building something new on the demand side. It really is going to raise the level, but it does take new ways of thinking and a lot of data.

So anyway, with that I’m happy to move Item 4 if there no other comments.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, thank you.

Vice Chair Gunda, would you be willing to second Item 4?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I second Item 4.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.

Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That item passes unanimously.

Let's turn now to Item 5, Center for Transportation and the Environment.

MS. LUM: Good morning, Chair and Commissioners.

I’m Quenby Lum, an Associate Energy Specialist from the Energy Research and Development Division. Today we are
recommending one award from a recent EPIC solicitation focused on projects to advance technologies in mobile renewable backup generation. Four other projects from this solicitation were approved at a previous business meeting.

The goal of these projects is to provide backup power during Public Safety Power Shutoffs, wildfires, and other grid outage events using clean energy mobile units. This will help meet the growing need for clean backup power solutions to offset or replace fossil-fuel diesel generators which emit greenhouse gases and air pollution.

Next slide, please.

The benefits of this project include increased electricity reliability and resiliency; emergency service and response capacity; improved safety for communities during outages; reduced greenhouse gases, air pollution emissions, and noise levels compared to diesel generators.

As shown on the map here there are multiple demonstration sites located in a mix of disadvantaged, low-income, and Tier 3 high-fire threat districts to help support these more vulnerable communities.

Demonstrations will also take place in different climate zones and in different seasons throughout the year to ensure system performance is robust in a variety of weather conditions. Next slide, please.

The proposed awardee is The Center for
Transportation and the Environment. The project team will be designing and demonstrating a hydrogen fuel cell mobile backup generation vehicle. This project is unique, because it is a self-sufficient and self-contained system. The truck will run on hydrogen, and it will also use hydrogen fuel to supply the backup generation.

Compared to mobile diesel generators, which are only used to provide power, need to be towed to the usage site and also require frequent refueling, the Hydrogen Backup Generator will be able to drive to and from an emergency or disaster relief site 90 miles each way, bring its own fuel on-board, and provide at least 35 kilowatts of continuous power for a minimum of 48 hours. Next slide, please.

The vehicle will be equipped to supply up to 10 gallons of water and to serve as an incident command vehicle, modeled after a typical incident command vehicle used by federal, state, and local agencies like the one shown here on the left from FEMA. It will support stand-alone loads for emergency and disaster relief applications such as cell phone and other electronic device charging, LED lighting, refrigerators, HVAC systems, and communication systems.

The vehicle will be fitted with standard electrical outlets that are compatible with any household...
appliance and electronic device without the need for special adapters. Next slide, please.

The use of diesel backup generators has increased a great amount in recent years due to wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. As shown on the map here, a recent study reports that in just 5 of the state's 35 air districts, California has more than 21,000 permitted diesel-powered backup and emergency generators with a total capacity of approximately 8,000 megawatts.

Combined, these generators can emit approximately 440,000 metric tons of CO2 per year, which is equivalent to approximately 95,000 passenger vehicles. Replacing all of the diesel backup generators in these air districts with emissions-free wind, solar, and hydrogen generators could not only mitigate these greenhouse gas emissions, but also contribute to reductions in other pollutants such as particulate matter, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides that are harmful to local communities. Next slide, please.

Staff recommends approval of this grant agreement, and adoption of the determination that this action is exempt from CEQA.

With me today are Erik Brewer from the Center for Transportation and the Environment, Bill Dietrich from the Chief Counsel’s Office, and Mike Gravely from the Energy Systems Research Office who are available to answer
questions you may have. This concludes my presentation, thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Quenby.

Let's turn now to public comment on Item 5.

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. Reminding attendees if you'd like to make a comment on Item Number 5, please raise your hand using the raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you're on by phone, please press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute.

Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We may continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Well, I would just say, I think, just in general we're seeing a kind of breaking down silos from all these different categories we're working on: transportation and grid and so forth. And everything's kind of being woven together, this is another positive example of that. So I just want to thank the staff for putting this together. And would open it up if there's other Commissioners who would like to chime in.

Let's start with Commissioner Monahan.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, just to build on what you were saying, Chair, I mean I think it's really exciting to see how hydrogen fuel cells and batteries, together with solar, wind, are playing this important role for backup power.
And I live in Berkeley and when the power goes out, I hear a lot of backup generators just popping up in every household. So as Quenby said, there's 21,000 permitted diesel backup generators, many more diesel backup generators just showing up in homes. And so it's just exciting to think of the role that clean energy could play in backup generation generally.

And I too want to thank Quenby and Mike Gravely for all the leadership that they're displaying on this set of grants. And this is a demonstration project, it's really not meant to be cost-competitive today it's more futuristic. And the project currently relies on fossil-fuel driven hydrogen, but requires that there be a plan to transition to green. And that's where we need to get to is a green energy system that is affordable and reliable.

I also want to comment on Cummins who's playing a role in this. And Cummins is a leader on alternative fuel engines generally. They recently moved into the California Fuel Cell Partnership building and opened this I think 21,000 square foot space for fuel cell technologies in the heavy-duty sector. So it's just great to see partners like Cummins investing in hydrogen fuel cell technologies that we're going to need for meeting especially goods-movement related decarbonization.

So, it's an exciting sort of connecting the dots,
as you said Chair, in terms of like we know we don't need these silos. We’ve got a silo bust. And this grant is one example of that.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Silo busting, yes.

Vice Chair Gunda, go ahead.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, great Chair. I just want to continue to support what you and Commissioner Monahan mentioned. And Quenby, thank you so much for the presentation.

I think just a point of context I just wanted to add is there's a couple things happening in terms of energy transition and equity. I think we keep talking about that there is a huge transition, both on the gas side, the electricity side and there is a role that hydrogen plays across this paradigm. And I think having a good understanding by doing programs like this, pilots like this that just provides us some information on what are the different pathways for hydrogen as we move forward and the downstream technologies that hydrogen could utilize to support the energy transition, but also equity, especially in terms of air quality and such.

So, I just wanted to say I think I am learning every time we do a project like this we bring something to the business meeting. There's an opportunity for me individually as that, as a person to learn the
opportunities here. So Quenby, thank you to you and the entire R&D team, on kind of continuing this conversation on alternate fuel pathways for decarbonizing the economy. So just wanted to note that.

And also, 100 percent agree to Commissioner Monahan and Chair Hochschild. There is an absolute need here to help integrate our themes of energy transition and decarbonization and equity across all the different areas that we all work in. And just continue to see these as opportunities for us to be able to publicly discuss some of these items. So thank you, looking forward to supporting it.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: So, Chair Hochschild, if I could just jump in for some quick support?

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, please. Mm-hmm.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I really found this item interesting. I’m in strong support. And I agree with Commissioner Monahan in the sense that these are very much cross-cutting issues and opportunities. And it's kind of fun to see a project like this and just think about the possibilities really for air quality, for resilience and reliability.

And just even in terms of the transition from to being able to use green hydrogen in these types of technologies, I think it's something that we should really
focus on. In the work that I do around renewables I do think there are some opportunity areas, there are some geographies where we can really -- and some technologies where we can really produce a lot of renewable energy. And so knowing that there are and could be these kind of cost-effective and really important use cases is helpful. And so I’m really supportive of this.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

Let’s see, with that unless there’s other comments --

COMMISSIONER McALLISTER: I do have my hand up here.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, sorry. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER McALLISTER: No worries, yeah. So just chiming I agree particularly with what Commissioner Douglas just said, but all my colleague have said so far. And I think there's a real imperative to understand hydrogen and really sort of get increasingly hard information, firm information about sort of the different use cases, in particular sort of potentially high-value use cases like this where the hydrogen economy is kind of likely to start and take root. So we can really project where it's likely to go, what role it's going to play across the various sectors, starting more or less primarily with transportation, but on the industrial side.
And really finding those off-takers that can add high value and therefore can support that ecosystem I think is really important.

And I want to reiterate what Commissioner Douglas said about just we really have to move towards green sort of ASAP. The hydrogen that we use has to be green hydrogen in order for it to really play that long-term role and help us get to 100 percent. And so the source of the energy in the process by which the hydrogens is derived is pretty key. And so I want to just keep us focused on that.

I mean there's a lot of optimism about hydrogen these days. And sort of managing those conversations and really determining where that, where the high value and most likely marketplaces are in line can go is really important. I think this program contributes -- this project contributes greatly to that so in full support.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And just on a related note, thunderous agreement to Commissioner McAllister’s viewpoint, 95 percent of the hydrogen use in the world today comes from fossil. We should not forget that. We need to change that, and if you don't change that you're not helping at all on the emission side. So I mean this is -- I think we're all eyes wide-open on this.

I do want to make a request if I could, to Mike Gravely, to share the deck that we've just developed on our
hydrogen roadmap with all of my fellow Commissioners. We've gotten a number of requests from legislators on this question. And we've developed what I think is an excellent overview of the key issues, the key questions, the swim lanes that we see as an agency on this. And it's a great briefing document, so if we could share that with my colleagues. I don’t know if everybody has seen that yet. It just got finished.

But with that I think we're prepared to move ahead. Commissioner McAllister, would you -- I’m sorry, was there another comment Vice Chair Gunda? No? Okay. If I could ask you to move Item 5.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I move Item 5.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right. Let’s see, Commissioner Monahan, would you be willing to second?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second Item 5.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, all in favor say aye.

Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?
VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item 5 passes unanimously.

And just as we're going forward, I have a hard stop at noon just for a document I have to review to be able to get it in by 1:00, so we will go until just before or just after noon and then break for lunch. And continue if we don't get all the way through. But with that let's move on to Item 6, Rail Propulsion Systems.

MR. WAN: Good morning, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Alex Wan and I’m an Associate Energy Specialist in the Freight and Transit Unit of the Fuels and Transportation Division.

Today, I’ll be presenting on the agreement with Rail Propulsion Systems, LLC, to develop a wireless power transfer charging system for a battery-electric locomotive. This wireless system will allow the locomotive to be charged wirelessly across an eight-foot-long stretch of track. Next slide, please.

Before I continue, I just wanted to provide a brief overview of the project. As I mentioned earlier the project will involve developing wireless charging infrastructure to charge a switcher locomotive. Transmitter pads will be placed along an eight-foot-long stretch of railroad track, and it will transmit energy to a
receiver on the locomotive. Thus, the receiver on the
locomotive will receive energy as the locomotive goes down
the stretch of track that transmitters are located within.

This project will result in several benefits for
Californians. First, it is innovative. As I mentioned
earlier it will allow switcher locomotives to be charged
anywhere throughout an eight-foot-long stretch of track.
Thus, it will allow for opportunity charging and reduce
periods of downtime. It will also have the same charging
speed and efficiency as standard wired charging, would not
hinder rail operations, and also would not require the
locomotive to be plugged in. As a result, this project
would lead to greater innovation.

Another benefit is increased worker safety. With
wired charging, workers have to carry heavy cables. And
these cables can cause injuries, create tripping hazards,
and increase contact with equipment that has high-voltage
electricity. With this project, however, there are no
heavy cables and no tripping hazards as the transmitter
pads are flush with the rails. The transmitter pads will
not be energized either.

Moreover, the project will result in emission
reductions in the Anaheim area. Both the locomotives and
charging technology used for this project are zero-
emission. The Recipient has estimated that there will be a
reduction of 532.2 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent greenhouse gases each year. This is important because the project site location at Coast Rail Services railyard is located in a heavily pollution-burdened disadvantaged community according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0. All the major railyards in the South Coast Air Basin, which are potential sites for deployment of the wireless charging for battery-electric locomotives are located either in or directly adjacent to a disadvantaged community. This project has the potential to significantly improve the air and health of the local community.

Last but not least, the photos on this slide are of the battery pack for the locomotive and a picture of the locomotive that the receiver will be placed on. Next slide, please.

For this project Rail Propulsion Systems, LLC, will first create a sub-scale/prototype Wireless Power Transfer, WPT, system at their workshop in Fullerton. They will use this prototype WPT system to run simulations. They will also run performance and function tests. The work that they do on this prototype system will help them determine what improvements they need to make while building the full-scale WPT system.

The next step they will take is to design, build, and test a full-scale WPT system that can transfer 75
kilowatts of power. They will build this system at their
workshop in Fullerton. After they finish building it, they
will perform function and performance tests on the system
at the workshop. After the system passes tests, it would be
integrated into the battery locomotive at the Coast Rail
Services railyard in Anaheim. Function and performance
tests will be performed on it afterwards. And once the
system passes these tests it will be demonstrated at the
railyard for 12 months. Next slide, please.

This project has the potential to impact the
railroad market in several ways. First, there are over 300
switcher locomotives operating throughout California at
various rail yards and ports and industrial and military
yards. Some of these locomotives consume between 10,000
and 50,000 gallons of diesel per year. Thus, there is a
potential to convert up to hundreds of switcher locomotives
to battery-electric locomotives and to use the WPT system
to power them.

Another potential market in the future for the
WPT system is passenger rail agencies. They can
potentially use the WPTs at passenger train stations and
service yards to charge passenger locomotives and railcars.
There are at least 100 passenger locomotives and 500
passenger railcars in California, so there is much
potential to use WPTs to charge hundreds of locomotives and
railcars. Most of these locomotives and railcars would be used for commuter and intercity routes where trains stop frequently.

In addition, the wireless charging system can potentially be used for passenger locomotive Head End Power otherwise known as HEP. HEP for locomotives includes lighting, air conditioning, and other electric systems on passenger cars. HEPs can be connected to a power grid via a WPT so that passengers trains do not have to use the diesel engines to run the HEP while waiting at a station. Next slide, please.

Staff recommends approval of the $270,000 grant with the Rail Propulsion Systems, LLC, and adoption of staff’s determination that the projects are exempt from CEQA.

This concludes my presentation. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I’m available for any questions that you may have.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Alex.

Let's move on to public comment on Item 6.

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. Reminding attendees if you would like to comment on Item Number 6, please raise your hand using what looks like the high-five icon on the screen. If you are on by phone please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.
Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We can continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Let's turn to Commissioner Monahan.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, thanks Alex, and to the FTD team that's led to all the BESTFIT solicitation. I mean, I think this is an area where really the Fuels and Transportation Division is overlapping with the R&D work that we do. I would say we're looking at these innovative charging solutions where there's not yet a full-on business case for this, but we're making these exploratory investments because we want to, because the future of charging is changing so fast.

And I always like look at China for what they're doing and think, well China is doing it, we should be doing it here in California. And China has like a one-kilometer road right now where it's a wireless charging road and they're testing out for all sorts of vehicles, how to -- and it's actually paired with solar and batteries so it's a clean delivery system. And I think that's what we're looking for, these innovative charging solutions that bring renewable energy with our charging and make it super-easy to charge vehicles.

So, I love the fact that Rail Propulsion Systems is located in Fullerton, California. And can I just say,
“Come to California companies that are investing in innovative charging.” And we have a grant program that will be -- we have $250 million over two years that the Legislature has given us to encourage companies to come to California and put down roots and help us meet our clean energy goals and help us drive a clean energy economy with good jobs here in the state.

And Rail Propulsion Systems is they are really on the cutting edge of clean rail. They're looking at all sorts of clean rail solutions, and this is just one of them. So I really strongly supportive of this portfolio of grants, and this grant in particular.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Hear, hear.

Other Commissioners wishing to make a comment, Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I have a question actually. So I am in full support of this just right out of the gate. I guess the diesels that are on locomotives typically are pretty high capacity. I mean, these are large loads and large engines. And I’m wondering sort of if staff knows, kind of in terms of what it would really take, like what kind of capacity of a full-on sort of charging station would look like for a locomotive?

Then also when they go over passes, they do have a lot of -- there's a lot of stored, potential energy up at
the top of one of these passes. And going down the backside of a pass seems like would be a prime opportunity to do some sort of breaking, some wireless breaking with induction kind of like a car. And obviously there's a lot of potential, there would be a lot of potential energy there. So just kind of wondering, the different themes that those are sort of part of the overall plan going forward and if we're looking at those opportunities?

MR. WAN: Yes. You know, based on what I’ve learned so far --

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Alex, you’re very, very -- there you go.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Alex, you need to speak up, it's hard to hear you.

MR. WAN: Sure, sorry about that. But based on what I’ve learned so far the full-scale power system will be over 500 kilowatts and the future plans would be to first have it to charge switcher locomotives and then in the future if it works out to move towards passenger rail cars in the future for both commuter and intercity trains.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAH: Can I also say, Commissioner McAllister, when I think of this, I think of it as opportunity charging, not full-on charging.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, right.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAH: And in fact, transit buses
are doing this right now: Antelope Valley, other -- Long
Beach. So it's more like how do you get a little extra
guice, not how do you refuel the whole vehicle. But I love
your ideas around rail and how we can think about future
investments.

COMMISSIONER McALLISTER: Yeah, thanks. That
makes a lot of sense (Overlapping colloquy.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I like that term, "opportunity
charging," which is sort of what I feel like I do with my
iPhone.

So, unless there are other comments, Commissioner
Monahan, would you be willing to move Item 5, or Item 6,
sorry?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 6.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister, would
you be willing to second?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I’d second.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, all in favor say
aye, Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?
COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye. as well. That item passes unanimously.

Let's turn now to Item 7, Second Block Grant for Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Projects.

MR. CAZEL: Good morning, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Phil Cazel with the Fuels and Transportation Division.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I’m sorry, Phil, you have a lot of background static. I don't know if there is -- now we can't hear you at all. So, it's okay if you turn it back on. What I mean is we could hear you okay, there was just a lot of static in the background. So now you're on mute though, we can't hear you at all.

MR. CAZEL: Yeah, I think it was the fan on my computer.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay that's better. Go ahead.

MR. CAZEL: Okay, good morning again. My name is Phil Cazel with the Fuels and Transportation Division.

Today staff is seeking approval of the two agreements listed in Item 7. If approved, CALSTART and the Center for Sustainable Energy, or CSE, will each design, implement, and manage up to $250 million for incentives that will be made available to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
Today we are requesting approval of up to $1 million in start-up costs for each grant agreement and approval to delegate authority to the Executive Director to approve additional future funds of up to $250 million per agreement. Next slide, please.

These new proposed block grants will build on the success of the CEC’s California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project, better known as CALeVIP, and deploy thousands of electric vehicle chargers, adding to the approximately 195,000 existing and planned chargers.

The incentives offered under the proposed agreements will support the growth of widespread, accessible, and convenient charging infrastructure that is critical to the growth of transportation electrification in California. They will also facilitate increased zero emission vehicle adoption, which surpassed 1 million in cumulative vehicle sales last month. All this contributes to the State’s 2025 goal of 250,000 public and shared chargers, and to closing the gap identified in the CEC’s AB 2127 Report of the estimated 1.2 million chargers that will be needed by 2030 for light-duty vehicles.

Finally, in addition to leading to better air quality and GHG reductions, these incentives will also focus on adding more charging locations in disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and multi-unit
dwellings to address community transportation needs and yield direct local benefits. Next slide, please.

The proposed agreements will design incentive programs based on identified needs and opportunities. The $1 million in start-up costs proposed for approval in each agreement today will be used to perform community outreach and for public workshops that will provide input to develop the incentive programs, as well as to develop software and processes needed to implement the incentives.

The CALeVIP incentives were made available on a first-come, first served basis throughout different regions of the state, which provided for rapid installation of charging infrastructure. The agreements proposed today would continue rapid deployment but could include different design elements to focus on community and equity needs.

Each phase of incentives will be developed by CALSTART and CSE and will include input and approval from Energy Commission staff. And as I mentioned earlier, future funding will be approved by the Executive Director to implement each incentive project or phase, up to the total of $250 million per agreement. Next slide, please.

The two proposed agreements would implement concurrent and complementary incentive programs. The specific projects will be designed with stakeholder and community input. They will invest in low-income and
disadvantaged communities and advance equity goals as well as meeting the need to accelerate deployment of chargers.

Incentive programs developed by CALSTART and CSE will provide the tools needed to ensure equity and community needs are met.

Also, a high level of collaboration among Energy Commission staff and the implementers will occur in developing each incentive program concept. All incentive programs developed will be presented in public workshops to seek feedback from community and industry stakeholders and will include input from Energy Commission staff to prevent duplication and overlap. Next slide please.

We are seeking your approval of these two agreements, a. and b. in Item 7. Today’s approval would provide approximately $1 million in start-up costs for each agreement and delegate authority to the Executive Director to approve future funding for each approved project or phase of incentives developed by CALSTART and CSE, up to $250 million cap per agreement.

We are also seeking adoption of the staff findings that this action would have no significant impact on the environment and is exempt from CEQA.

Thank you for your consideration. Peter Colwell with CSE and Alycia Gilde with CALSTART are online to comment and are available to answer any questions, as am I.
Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

Let's turn now to public comment on Item 7.

MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. Reminder to attendees if you would like to make a comment, please -- we're on Item 7 just to be clear -- please raise your hand using the raised-hand icon on Zoom. If you are on by phone press *9 to raise your hand *6 to unmute.

I do see a hand raised, Alycia Gilde. A reminder to please restate your name, spell it and indicate your affiliation for the record. Your line is open, Alycia, and you may begin.

MS. GILDE: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

Alycia Gilde, Senior Director at CALSTART. Well good morning, Commissioners and stakeholders vested in advancing a clean energy and transportation future. On behalf of CALSTART we are honored to be selected as an implementer for the second block grant for light-duty electric vehicle charger incentive projects.

We are looking forward to working with a California Energy Commission and our project partners GRID Alternatives, Tetra Tech and Veloz to implement community-first incentive projects for electric charging that will enable faster adoption of zero-emission vehicles in our

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low-income and disadvantaged communities.

As we collaborate with the Energy Commission our partners and stakeholders at large on the development and implementation of these projects there are three critical elements we aspire to achieve.

First, prioritizing transformative equity whereby we place equity at the center driving effective strategy with data and defined metrics, a focused engagement plan and technical assistance to rapidly expand light-duty electric vehicle adoption and consumer access.

Secondly, promoting rapid market acceleration by delivering infrastructure through a flexible and scalable framework that meet community needs, supports a pipeline of new projects, and efficiently administer funds.

And lastly, that we build upon success and align infrastructure planning, partners, investments, and programs to facilitate a holistic, cohesive and innovative ecosystem for zero-emission transportation.

We are thrilled with the investments this state has committed to advancing zero-emission vehicle adoption and look forward to implementing projects that will drive meaningful benefits to communities across the state. Thank you so much.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

MS. GALLARDO: All right, thank you.
Oh yes, so I do see another hand raised, this is Peter Colwell. Peter, a reminder for you to restate your name, spell it and indicate your affiliation if any. Your line is open, and you may begin. And Peter, you may need to unmute on your end.

MR. COLWELL: Hello, my name is Peter Colwell, C-o-l-w-e-l-l. I’m with the CSE and we are very honored and excited to be working on this second block grant. This is a continuation of our CALeVIP program, and we believe that this is going to help accelerate more charters in the ground.

We know that we still have work to do and are looking forward to the continued growth of chargers throughout California. Thank you.

MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

All right, Chair I do not see any other hands raised, we can continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Let's turn to Commissioner Monahan.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well thanks to Phil and to the whole team at the Fuels and Transportation Division. And Hannon Rasool have been very involved in this, Mark Wenzel, Brian Fauble, Sharon Purewal.

And this, we're looking at this opportunity to have two different implementers as a way to rapidly deploy
charging infrastructure and to do it in a way that's attentive to equity. You know, we have a goal of having 250,000 chargers by 2025 with the funding from the Legislature. We want to make sure that we can meet that goal, and so we’ll be investing strategically and using the results of our SB 1000 equity analysis to make sure that we're constantly titrating (phonetic) our investments to be attentive to equity.

And I love the fact that this gives us more flexibility. And it's important to note that this isn't -- we're not saying we are definitively going to use all that funding, that is, but just it gives the Executive Director the approval. We are saying, “Up to this amount,” and the Executive Director will decide how much money will be deployed. And so this just gives us a chance to tailor our investments to meet the state priorities and to and to respond to the performance of each of the implementers. So we are going to be working very closely with them to make sure those swim lanes (phonetic) are clear.

And so I also wanted to say that I think of block grants as a great way to rapidly deploy infrastructure. We're still going to be having our own grant programs that we manage, because we don't have all the answers. And especially when it comes to multifamily dwellings, we really don't have all the answers.
So, I look forward to working with CALSTART and CSE, congratulate both of them. They’ve both done a great job in applying for in their applications for these block grants. And we need to move quickly to make sure that we can show the Legislature and the Governor's Office that we're using these funds strategically, smartly and swiftly.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, well said.

Other? Yeah, Vice Chair Gunda.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, just a very quick thing.

Commissioner Monahan, first of all congratulations to you and your leadership on -- I know when I saw the business meeting and it said $275 million for this grant I was like, “Did I misread that?” Just kind of these eye-popping numbers of investments that the State of California is committed to, CEC is committed to, and I'm just thrilled to see this much investment going in, but also leadership. And the courage that it requires to push this amount of money to make sure it's done right. So Phil and the entire team, thank you for your thoughtful and careful work on all these things.

One point of ask as always, you know, transportation electrification especially is going to be a huge impact on the grid. And the way that electrification happens on the transportation side, the time of charging and potential discharging with meter G (phonetic) I just
want to put a plug in for gathering information through these projects as much as we can that we could really leverage. We don't have a lot of data yet on these. So what I ask Phil, you and the team, to please work with our office and more broadly with Commissioner McAllister and other -- and Commissioner Douglas. We're all working on different aspects of the grid-planning side, so we'd love to have an opportunity to think through opportunities for information gathering and bringing them into our analytical planning products. Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

Any other comments from Commissioner Douglas? Would you -- okay.

I just want to say I really want to commend you, Commissioner Monahan and Hannon Rasool and the whole team who worked on this. I like very much how it's set up. And I think it's important that we have some different approaches here and can kind of compare and contrast. And we are going to be watching this really, really closely. The stakes are extremely high for the state for our climate goals. We want this money to be well-deployed, well-administered and to get out quickly. And so this is a really absolutely key priority for us that this go well. And so I want to just thank all the staff who worked on this, the stakeholders involved, CALSTART and CSE. And
we're going to be doing everything we can to support the
success of this significant investment.

So unless here further comments or discussions
I’d invite Commission Monahan to move Item 7.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 7.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda, would you be
willing to second?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: It’s a real occasion of me
seconding such a big amount, I absolutely will. Thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: With that all in favor say
aye.

Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: VICE CHAIR GUNDA?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That
item passes unanimously.

Let's turn now to Item 8, CALSTART.

MR. KOZUCH: All right. Good morning, Chair, and
Commissioners. My name is Matt Kozuch, staff with the
Fuels and Transportation Division’s Freight & Transit Unit.
We are seeking approval today for an amendment to an agreement with CALSTART, Inc. This current agreement, approved at the March 2021 business meeting, covers a block grant to design, implement, and fund, with CEC oversight, various medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle infrastructure incentive projects throughout California. The proposed amendment today would augment the agreement's spending authority by about $226 million for a total grant spending authority amount of nearly $276 million, which includes the $50 million in authority previously approved through the March 2021 business meeting. Next slide, please.

The goal of this agreement is to develop and implement medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle infrastructure incentive projects to address critical barriers and gaps to the deployment of this infrastructure across California. This agreement is designed to speed up the installation of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle infrastructure to provide more accessible electric charging and hydrogen refueling options which are critical for accommodating future medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission fleets.

By 2030 it’s projected by CARB’s 2020 Mobile Source Strategy that the state will require about 180,000 medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles to achieve...
current state climate and air quality goals. Preliminary modeling from the CEC’s AB 2127 Report estimates to support this projected future vehicle population, approximately 157,000 DC fast chargers will be needed by 2030, including up to 16,000 higher capacity 350 kilowatt chargers. This agreement will help the state reach this 2030 target to support future zero-emission fleets.

Lastly, this agreement will provide targeted emission reductions and health benefits to Californians, especially within disadvantaged communities that typically have much higher rates of diesel air pollution. Next slide, please.

CALSTART will design and implement incentive projects through this block grant, including targeted strategies for transit bus, school bus, and drayage zero-emission vehicle infrastructure. They will design the internal controls, processes, and procedures necessary to process block grant funding, evaluate incentive requests, and produce accurate monthly fiscal accounting and reporting. Furthermore, CALSTART will create an inclusive equity strategy that utilizes focused outreach to ensure maximum project benefit to underserved communities. CALSTART will begin to release incentive funding publicly in waves, beginning in the first quarter of 2022. Next slide, please.
In summary we would like to recommend approval of this proposed amendment to increase this agreement’s spending authority to a total of about $276 million, including the $50 million approved at the March 2021 business meeting.

In addition, we would like to recommend adoption of staff’s determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. Currently, $17 million in funding is available to CALSTART through this block grant. Additional funding, up to the nearly $276 million spending authority total, will require approval from the Executive Director of the CEC through an amendment.

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration of these items. Amy Gower with CALSTART is here to provide public comment and we are both available for any questions that you may have. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Matthew, appreciate it.

Let's go to public comment on Item 8.

MS. GALLARDO: All right, this is Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. A reminder to attendees if you would like to make a comment on Item Number 8, please raise your hand using the icon, it looks like a high-five on the screen. If you're on by phone please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.
I do see a hand raised, Amy Gower. A reminder to restate your name, spell it for the record and indicate your affiliation, if any. Oh, I just lost her. Hold on. So Amy I’m opening your line, please feel free to begin and you may need to unmute on your end.

MS. GOWER: Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for this opportunity to provide public comment on behalf of CALSTART. We are honored to be the implementer of EnergIZE Commercial Vehicles Project. My name is Amy Gower and I’m leading EnergIZE at CALSTART.

We are designing the first of its kind incentive project for zero-emission commercial vehicle infrastructure with equity at the center of driving meaningful impacts. EnergIZE is designed by the thoughtful feedback solicited through stakeholder input. Through a series of focus groups, we engaged more than 282 individuals across a variety of groups, including fleets, technology providers, government, and communities.

As Matt mentioned we will begin offering incentives in the first quarter of 2022 and have tailored incentives to support industry and frontline communities. To help applicants navigate the complicated landscape of infrastructure planning we are developing an infrastructure readiness center that will provide technical assistance to support project participation. We are developing an
effective and efficient application process to support the scale of infrastructure incentives needed to build California’s zero-emission ecosystem. With the help of our partners at Tetra Tech and GRID Alternatives we are developing application documents that are as fair and simple as possible.

We are grateful for CEC’s fantastic partnership on this project and look forward to more collaboration to come. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

All right, I do not see any other hands raised, Chair. I think we can continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

Let's turn to Commissioner Monahan.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I really liked Vice Chair Gunda’s description of these as eye-popping numbers, they are a little eye-popping. I hadn’t thought about that before. And Matt thanks to you and Hannon and Elizabeth and Michelle Vater and all the folks that have helped with this, because I know there's just a lot of attention and focus in the Fuels and Transportation Division to making sure that these grant programs work.

And CALSTART congratulations to you for the EnergiIZE program. I think it's the first in the world to ever have a program to fund heavy-duty ZEV infrastructure
through state funds and so it's really groundbreaking. And the Legislature is giving us very specific goals: 1,000 transit buses, 1,000 school buses, 150,000 drayage tracks. And we need to make sure that our programs meet these goals.

And I love the fact that CALSTART is also managing the Air Resources Board program for vehicle incentives, which is affectionately called HVIP. I would say not to be competitive with the Air Resources Board, but EnergIIZE Commercial Vehicles is a little better moniker. But the fact that CALSTART is doing both gives me confidence and faith that we can make this sort of a seamless experience for the grantee.

And again, this is an up-to spending amount. We're not saying we're definitively allocating that. There's going to be performance metrics and we want to make sure that this works for grantees and helps us meet our state goals. But I'm just really excited about this and excited to work with CALSTART to make this a success.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner. I fully agree.

One other point of I would just make is that we do have a successful history of partnering with entities like CALSTART and others and New Energy Nexus and many others to administer big chunks of our funding when that
makes sense. But it really requires really robust communication and when there's hurdles and challenges, just having those channels of communication be open and problem-solve in real time and not letting things get worse before they addressed is essential. And particularly when we're talking about chunks of money this size just the stakes are very, very high.

And so I think not saying anything new here, but just going forward we really depend on excellent communication and problem-solving. And problems come up, challenges come up, some things change and that's normal, but it's the communication that really makes it successful.

So a few Commissioners wishing to make a comment. Let's start with Commissioner McAllister.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yes, just very briefly. So totally agree with your comments, Chair. And I wanted to just congratulate Commissioner Monahan for just this is a series of grants, this is serious money here. And just totally agree that it's so positive and it's going to move the needle in a big, big way. And I agree with the Chair about our various program implementation models, which this is one and the previous item as well, all have roles in the marketplace.

And I think working through these big contracts, assuming that it was done very competently, which I totally
have faith that it will be, it can really seed this field in ways that I think can be really, really positive. And the idea that we go forward and sort of in tranches means that we have a lot of influence over how that evolves, and I think that's just a really good structure.

Of course, we have lots of different program models, including administration of really important market transformation programs with our staff directly at the Commission. And I think that also has a really wonderful place as well in this overall landscape.

And then yeah, I just wanted to express all confidence in the Executive Director. I know that loading this responsibility into the Executive Office is going to make sure that we're paying full attention, obviously, with all the Commissioner offices keeping tabs as well, so just want to express real confidence in this structure for these programs going forward.

And thanks again Commissioner Monahan, for all your leadership and the Chair as well. You're making a big difference in the state and nation.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: We are making a big difference. And I just thank you for those comments about the Executive Director Drew. You've been a very steady hand at the wheel throughout all this and well said.

I think Vice Chair Gunda, you were going to make
a comment?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, Chair. Again, Commissioner McAllister and Monahan great comments. And I think just wanted to add kind of a couple things. First of all, congratulations to CALSTART again for this large responsibility, on behalf of the State of California, and Matthew to you and the entire team for helping pull this together.

Couple of I think at a high level that -- Chair, to you, I know you've really invested over the last couple of years to help CEC become the vehicle for clean energy investments for the state and do it in a responsible and a transparent manner. And I think that includes the Ombudsman in your office, Jennifer, being able to gather information on these things and the overarching process improvements that have occurred at CEC to help move this kind of money forward in a responsible way. So I just want to say thanks to you and again to Commissioner Monahan. What an amazing opportunity, this is just incredible to move the clean energy, clean transportation goals forward.

And as a part of that I just wanted to note what an amazing opportunity for us all to live in a state that kind of really puts this level of money into these kinds of goals, stands steadfastly behind the climate imperative. And then kind of moving forward these incredible goals and
processes and principles.

So I know I really like to hear the word “equity,” love to hear the word. That it's becoming a part of our DNA more and more every day that we think about this. I also want to compliment the FTD’s work on thinking through on our investments where they are going, but also the impact of the investments. And then the study that FTD is going to begin to look into the impact of the investments in the disadvantaged communities.

So I think it's so many different routes that have been put in over the last couple of years. And it's really becoming an amazing forest that we could benefit from, so congratulations across the board for everybody. And Commissioner Monahan specifically for your leadership, Hannon, the entire FTD team and Chair for just the overall vision for CEC as a vehicle for moving the green climate goals with the state.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those comments. Commissioner Douglas, were you going to make a comment?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I'm in strong support of this. I think it is important to look for innovative ways to deploy these kinds of programs. And especially as we're called upon to accelerate our work in the clean energy transition and move more funding out faster to meet
these needs out in California for key infrastructure, like
I’m in full support of this kind of approach.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Well, thank you.

Just a few final thoughts before I invite a
motion on this item. Commissioner Monahan is very modest
about her role in this but arriving at the Energy
Commission when she did was just this perfect storm of
opportunity, that we pushed and pushed for resources and
got them. And your good judgment, your persistence, your
20 years of experience in clean transportation has been
absolutely fundamental to the progress we're making here
today. This is historic as we wrap up three quarters of a
billion dollars of approvals here at the meeting this
morning.

I just want to say when we do our job right in
this space it does good obviously in the transportation
sector. It unlocks and accelerates investment from OEMs
and new investment and new companies in the transportation
sector. But it also does much more. I think it actually
has spillover benefits to other sectors and helps people
see what is possible, because the transformation that’s
happening right now in the transportation sector is so
enormous and exciting and so heavily shaped and inspired by
leadership in California, of which this is a part.

But Governor Newsom’s executive order, a year
ago, GM I don't believe would have made the commitment to
go to 100 percent electric by 2035. Or all the other
incredible new investments and commitments we're seeing,
including from Ford and so forth. We are moving the
market.

And we can do the same thing, for example, in
building decarb. We are working really hard on that.
We're pushing a big new proposal for funding in that space.
And I do think there are these wonderful spillover effects
from one field to another, and we talked about the gradual
subsidence of silos within our strategy, but that's also
just happening out in the marketplace. And I think it's a
really incredible statement we can make that we can go this
big and execute and see change. And then that's going to
inspire a lot of others, so this is a historic day, and
this is a historic item.

I just want to thank Commissioner Monahan again
for the amazing leadership. Hannon, such professionalism
and passion and talent and your whole team, this is really
-- I want you guys to take pride in this. And more to
come, okay. This is a down payment, but we are just
going started.

So with that I would welcome --

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I've got to say something
really fast, Chair.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes, please. Please, yeah.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: First, I feel deeply uncomfortable with all the thank-yous. But second, I just want to acknowledge you, Chair, for your vision, your generosity and I would say your dogged unrelenting pursuit of clean, affordable, reliable energy. And your partnership has been just critical in accelerating progress here in California.

And I want to say that this move to an electric transportation future is unstoppable. It is global in nature and the EU and China, and other countries are with us, and now the manufacturers are too. And as you said, our Governor really took a leadership role in terms of saying, “Hey we're going to phase out all internal combustion engines when it comes to transportation,” and the other countries took notice, and the automakers took notice.

And the vehicle manufacturers are now making those same, setting those same goals. So it's our job here in California to demonstrate that we are, we will remain at the cutting edge in that the leadership role, not just in the United States but globally, on zero-emission transportation. And building out a ZEV infrastructure that, as Vice Chair Gunda says, is responsive to our grid needs is going to be really critical in that.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: And I want to reiterate what you said about the Fuels and Transportation Division and Hannon Rasool, in particular. His leadership has really been instrumental in all of the progress that we've made.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, well said. Well, I just -- Mahatma Gandhi's quote about change, particularly things like this which even a few years ago nobody would have anticipated this scale of change going on. But he said, "First they ignore you, then they mock you, then they fight you, and then you win." And I always keep that thought with me when we were talking about big, important changes in the right direction.

So with that I would welcome a motion from Commissioner Monahan on Item 8.

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 8.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda, would you be willing to second?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second Item 8.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye. Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That item passes unanimously. Congratulations to everyone.

Colleagues, with your permission, I have to get a document done, so I would suggest we reconvene at 1:00 if that's okay? And we'll finish up the agenda at that time.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Perfect.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great, thanks guys.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

(Off the Record at 12:08 p.m.)

(On the Record at 1:01 p.m.)

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you, Noemi. I think we are all back.

And with that let's get back to the agenda. We were on Item 9, Approval of the Minutes. Any public comment on that?

MS. GALLARDO: This Noemi Gallardo, the Public Advisor. A reminder to attendees if you would like to make a comment on Item Number 9, please use the raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you are on by phone press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute.

Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We can
continue.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Unless there’s Commissioner comments, Vice Chair Gunda, would you be willing to move Item 9?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes, I move Item 9.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister would you mind seconding that?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.

Vice Chair Gunda?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

Commissioner Monahan?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. That item passes unanimously.

Let’s turn now to Item 10, Lead Commissioner and Presiding Member Reports. Commissioner McAllister, why don’t you start us off.

COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Absolutely.

Well, let's see, I think I mostly want to kind of use this last meeting of the year to -- we're past
Thanksgiving -- to give some thanks. And obviously there's lots going on. And just from this meeting and last month's meeting just so many different themes in the hopper and so much in my world and just across the Commission. I feel like we are really firing on all cylinders.

And increasingly our projects are sort of not just multi-disciplinary within divisions, but really multi-divisional. And I really am just thankful for the collaboration across all Commissioner offices for sure. And then also just all this: all the staff offices, the division heads, and we have an incredible crop of division deputy directors, and just staff at all levels running each project, each office. And just watching some of the newer staff evolve into subject-matter experts it's just a really amazing, just palpable sense of progress over the course of this past year. And I want to just sort of say that and express my gratitude to everybody.

I do have a bunch of names that I want to go through, and I’ll try to do it efficiently. But I feel like we do give a lot of thanks along the way on individual projects, even items at our business meetings as they come before us. But this is kind of an opportunity to step back and sort of take stock and think about the year past and kind of get ready and start to think creatively about the year to come. And not only how to accomplish our goals,
but also how to help our staffs thrive and how we might tweak organizational issues and kind of just focus on the human development aspect of it too, because that's equally if not more important than the actual results that we get as a Commission.

So I wanted to start out just at the at the highest staff level, Drew -- just we’ll hear his report later -- but really, I’m thankful for his collaboration as I mean we all are. And Linda Spiegel is great addition to his team and Rob Cook and Melanie on his team just really keeping all the trains running on time and troubleshooting as needed is just really valuable.

And also, in the Executive Office I wanted to call out Jason Harville and his competence and just his whole kind of embracing of our data transformation. And really his attitude as a service, as a server, as a servant, I guess, of our greater Commission goals. I think really enabling others to thrive and really building a robust platform, he's just a real gem. And I wanted to just make sure that Jason, your acknowledged there, because it means a lot to the whole Commission. And it's going to make a huge impact as we go forward in our next year.

On the Small Offices, I know that I’m going to repeat what other Commissioners want to say, but I can’t thank some of these folks. Noemi Gallardo, just your
competence in helping things run is fantastic and you're bringing people into the Commission.

In the Media Office Lindsay and Sandy and Elaine, just invaluable in so many ways. And on the international front I wanted to thank Alana, Alana Sanchez, and Anna of course who are really helping us build those ties beyond our borders in California.

And then the IEPR core team. As everybody knows leading the IEPR together with most of you on different topics, particularly Vice Chair Gunda. But the IEPR team, Heather Raitt, Denise Costa, Stephanie Bailey and Raquel Kravitz, that is just the dream team of getting the IEPR done. It's a huge facilitative role and really helps. It really makes things happen, because not all of us are always on time with all of our deliverables and they make it. They are pleasant about it, but they help us get things done and that have to be done. And this year’s IEPR going to be a testament to all their effectiveness there.

In the Chief Counsel's Office so many cross-cutting projects and so it's a little hard to balance sort of the functional divisions in the Commission and the projects, so I’m trying not to call people out more than once, but it might happen. In CCO on the Standards team Linda Barrera is just valuable as Chief Counsel. I can't just express how happy I am to have to be working with her
on many different topics. And her Deputy, Jimmy Qaundah, who is also just marvelous. And on specific topics Michael Murza, Matt Chalmers, Josephine Crosby, Jacqueline Moore and Christina Evola. That's not everybody that I’ve worked with from my office, but some of the principles there.

On the EIR for the Standards Jared Babula and Susan Cochran, Caryn Holmes, Ralph Lee, Nick Oliver, Matthew Pinkerton and Lisa DeCarlo. And then on CalSHAPE, Allan Ward has been really, really key on that as well as Matthew Pinkerton.

In STEP Division, those I’ve worked with most closely and just really value are Gerry Bemis, Matt Layton, Mark Hamlin and Lisa Worrall and Carol Watson. Thank you to all of you.

And so moving on to sort of the core of what my office does day to day is obviously the Efficiency Division. I want to just thank Mike Sokol and Christine Collopy for their leadership and Tajanee Ford-Whelan for her support of them; amazing team there at the leadership of the Division. Our immediate liaison is Amber Beck, and she has really thrived in her new role and is just doing wonderful work helping us connect a lot of different dots, so thank you, Amber.

And then I’ll go through each office just quickly. We have had so many achievements this year. The
building standards, moving forward on various appliance
efficiency standards, and getting the flexible demand
appliance standard rulemaking moving forward, the load
management standards. The list is pretty long here, so I
just want to call out a bunch of folks in each of the
offices. Existing Building Office they worked on the 3232
Report, really seminal stuff; and the IEPR SB 350; load
management standards, all under Jen Nelson's leadership, so
thank you Jen. And with Heather Bird, Michael Kenney,
Eugene Lee, Dee Anne Ross, Gavin Situ, who worked on the
ACEEE scorecard. And we got first this year, so I’d have
to call him out, thank you Gavin, and Gabe Taylor.

The Appliances Office: Pierre duVair, Peter
Strait, both providing great leadership there, Soheila
Pasha, David Johnson, Sean Steffensen on various appliance
efficiency efforts. And energy efficiency and water
efficiency, obviously, which is really key going forward,
we were developing a great skillset in water.

In Building Standards Office, next week actually
is the Building Standards Commission adoption of the entire
package of the 2022 Building Code. And we've obviously
adopted our part, we’re one of the few non-building
standards commission agencies that have independent
adoption authority and so we've done that, thank you to my
colleagues and all the staff working on it. The Building
Standards Commission, we’ll wrap that up and adopt the whole package starting the conversation next week at their hearings. But that work on our end has been done. We have a huge team and I just want to read through this list: Mazi Shirakh, Payam Bozorgchami, Danny Tam, RJ Wichert, Jeff Miller, Peter Strait again, Adrian Ownby, Haile Bucaneg, Javier Perez, Will Vicent, Michael Shewmaker, Danuta Drozdowicz, Thao Chau, Meng Moua (phonetic), Simon Lee, Alexis Markstrum, Ronald Balneg, Haider Alhabibi, Amie Brousseau, Che Geiser, Chris Olvera, Bach Tsan and Muhammad Saeed, those last two being new and really beginning to thrive in the Commission; really happy about their presence and work.

In the Standards Compliance Office Lorraine White and Joe Loyer, Matthew Haro, Daniel Wong, Charles Opferman and Ronnie Raxter, a great team there and lots of work ahead on the 2022 code and getting ready for 2025.

The Efficiency Division data team, and this is the Efficiency Division’s kind of collaboration with Jason and his team at the Executive Office. And I think this is kind of a model of how a matrix kind of organization is going to help us do a lot of really innovative analysis with the AMI data and other information that we’re going to be getting in. That's Troy Dorai, Mitchell Prevost, Dennis Yagen and Corrine Fishman; different touches on there from
IT as well.

On load management standards, and I think I’ve bent everyone's ear about how transformational I think the load management standards will be and that rulemaking will be opening before the end of the year. And we're hoping to get that done during the course of 2022. But really amazing innovative work by Karen Herder, Gavin Situ, Morgan Shepherd. David Cuffee in IT has been really key to build the Midas tool that's going to enable that and Gabe Taylor as well, so thanks to all of you.

On the flexible demand appliance standards that's Nick Struven, Todd Ferris, Peter Strait and Sean Steffensen. That's a moving forward, it's a big lift and it's something very new out of whole cloth. But I’m really optimistic that we'll get that, a solid foundation during 2022 as well; lots of great work on that already.

Also, the housing and building decarbonization working group that I’ve talked to you all about at some point, Will Vicent and Javier Perez are really driving that work. It's a multi-agency effort to coordinate across our housing and energy programs that I think is beginning to pay real benefits in terms of really having it both ways: finding our cake and eating it too in terms of reaching our climate goals and also facilitating housing funding programs.
I'm sure Vice Chair Gunda will thank all these people and more as well, but I cannot forget EAD. That division is just really in some ways the heart and soul of the Commission and will be really key and instrumental in our analytical work as it deepens even further. On the IEPR forecasting and on the AB 3232 work, Matt Coldwell and Nick Janusch, Ingrid Neumann, Mike Jaske and Michael Kenney. IEPR on natural gas, Melissa Jones and Jason Orta, really great work there. On the flexible demand working group or the -- sorry, supply side demand response working group that's Tom Flynn, Erik Lyon, David Erne. So thanks to all of you.

And I have to thank Grace Anderson for helping out on all the Western states and the Western interconnect coordination that we're doing as a Commission, and both across the other states and across the energy agencies, between the PUC and the CAISO. Grace is just a font of knowledge and we're just so lucky to have her.

And on standards and EIR stuff I wouldn't want to leave out Angela Tanghetti. She's done a lot of the backend analysis for those deliverables.

And on the data regulations that have revolved around EAD and have involved a variety of staff Ryan Eggers and Amanda Poletti and Eddie Rosales who is the Efficiency Division, but has been involved in the PACE aspect of that.
So those data regs are really foundational for our analytical enablement going forward.

In the Renewables Division since the local assistance and financing office moved over there they have taken on a bunch of new activities and new programs. Natalie Lee and her leadership has been really key, along with the Armand Angulo, her deputy.

The Build Program, which is approximate to rolling out, and I’m happy to be able to say that. And Deana Carrillo has really led that with aplomb and effectiveness, Larry Froess, Tiffany Mateo, Erica Chac and Myoung-Ae Jones and Camille Remy Obod, so thanks to all of you for putting in place what I think is going to be a robust program.

And then on CalSHAPE, which is the school-focused program on energy and air quality and water Jonathan Fong has largely led that, so thank you, along with Christopher Meyer and Kourtney Vaccaro, Eli Harland as well from the executive row -- from the Commissioner row.

I'm happy to be working with you Chair Hochschild on the Energy Research and Development Division. And Laurie ten Hope, obviously we have to just keep thanking her as much as possible. Jonah Steinbuck has taken over and is really doing a great job. On the industrial side, Virginia Lew, Kevin Uy, David Stout, Christian Fredericks
and Ilia Krupenich, so thanks for all of you. On efficiency integration load flexibility, the CalFLEX hub David Hungerford, just a real deep skill set and knowledge base on demand response and everything related, so thank you David. And on building efficiency Yu Hou has been a really great ERDD member for that.

I'm wrapping up here getting close. On hydrogen Mike Petouhoff, thanks Mike for helping for really driving the hydrogen planning. On market facilitation, Erik Stokes and Misa Werner have just been incredible on developing the EPIC floor plan and getting that across the finish line.

So, moving on to my office Gaylene Cooper you have just stepped in and done everything amazingly well and juggled a lot, more than just my office, but thank you so, so much. And Laura Castaneda my long-term executive assistant who is now a mother for the first time, and congratulations to her. And the baby and mom are doing well, and she'll be returning to us in the near future, but just want to wish her all the best for the holidays.

Also want to thank Le-Quyen, Ken and Terra from the Chair’s Office. We just intersect so much, and our staffs work so closely together, it's almost they're part of -- really it's one team, and I want to just acknowledge them for all their great work.

And in my office, I just have to -- I mean I've
got such a great team and really firing on all cylinders,
Bryan Early my chief of staff, and you all work with Fritz
Foo and Bill Pennington who are playing really great roles
and moving the various balls forward.

And then I want to thank really partners outside
of the Commission. Just really quickly in the Governor's
Office Alice Reynolds and Hazel Miranda have just been
really great partners. James Ralph in the DC office also
just really terrific to work with.

My partners in the PUC, senior staff, I won't
name them individually but just the senior staff across
Energy Division and other divisions as well as each
Commissioner in their particular topics, but certainly
Commissioners Rechtschaffen and Shiroma, Houck and
President Batjer and Commissioner Guzman Aceves. All five
of them we work with very closely on different topics, so I
really value their partnership and really their service
ethic. I mean all of them just have an amazing commitment
to California, as do all of you, so I want to just say
thanks across the board.

And let's see I want to acknowledge some CAISO
folks, but I think I’ll defer to Vice Chair Gunda on that.
But really, I guess I’ll just go to the top and appreciate
Elliot Mainzer, just the culture that he's creating at the
CAISO of collaboration with us as well.
All of our stakeholders on the building standards, appliances, load management, building decarb generally, we just have such a, I think, arguably the most kind of broad-based, numerous, active, vocal set of stakeholders for all these different topics. And it just really goes to the importance and the foundational nature of buildings and efficiency and demand side of distribution-level resources that we’re so excited about across the state. So really, I’m thankful to have a lot of different ears to bounce things off of and maybe shoulders to cry on occasionally, but generally assistance getting initiatives across the finish line.

And a few other agencies, the ARB, really developing ever closer ties with the Air Resources Board on various topics; the Department of Housing and Community Development on the building code; Community Services and Development on low-income, weatherization and potentially new initiatives that we can partner on; the Business, Consumer Affairs and Housing agents -- or Consumer Services and Housing Agency, Secretary Castro Ramirez has been a rally great ally there; and the Strategic Growth Council that we partner with ever more closely; and CalHFA, that’s the Housing Finance Agency within the Housing Agency.

And then out there in the building sector, CALSMACNA, just a great group of folks that help us get to
good answers; NRDC, collaborating on a number of many, many fronts; the CBIA, all the builders who obviously have a big stake in good decision-making at the Commission that participate and contribute; many different original equipment manufacturers; the California Energy Alliance; (Indiscernible) our friends over at the utilities, South Coast AQMD and Bay Area AQMD increasingly involved in our issues around buildings and appliances, which is really welcome.

Our IOU partners, generally I want to just thank them at PG&E and Edison and SoCal Gas and SDG&E as well as SMUD, LADWP, so they’re really big partners that we hash through some of these difficult issues with and that are really always at the table to participate, so we appreciate that.

And then I wanted to thank also the DACAG and that's partly a thank-you for Noemi for managing the DACAG. But I think having them as a resource makes us all better. Makes us all more accountable certainly, but it really makes our outcomes better. And that is a set of voices that is just we're so thankful, we're so fortunate to have contributing the time and energy and thoughtfulness and passion to these issues, because we're just not going to get it right unless we get to everyone in the state, unless we enable participation by everyone in the state. And the
DACAG is helping us make our best effort to do that.

And then finally I just want to acknowledge some international partners. I’m working very closely with Mexico. In fact, tonight I’m going down to Mexico for a couple of days to sign a new MOU with Jalisco. And going to meet with some of the state and local and national Mexican players to talk about things we might do going forward, so that's really fantastic, really grateful for that partnership. To Liliana Ferrer our consul here in Sacramento, just a really beautiful person and doing great work with us to grow our ties to Mexico.

And then our various efforts with Denmark as well. I know Commissioner Douglas is driving much of that on the building side and some of the other efficiency efforts in that industry particularly that they're working on.

And so, I think I’ll stop there, it's kind of exhaustive. Thanks for letting me go first, but there's so much to be thankful for and this is an opportunity to call out people and really get it on record. People deserve so much more credit than we can give them in these little opportunities that we have.

You know, a year has -- a difficult year actually has gone by, and I think people have really shown their mettle as they manage to get things done, sort of utility
players, manage to find a way. And we're so grateful as an as an agency and as a state to have commitment from all of the different staff and stakeholders. So, I will stop there and pass the mic back to you Chair Hochschild. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner, for that very gracious set of thank-yous.

So, let's turn next to Vice Chair Gunda.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Commissioner McAllister for taking the time to individually call out staff. It's not easy to just kind of like go through every single name, but I always appreciated your ability to just pause and kind of commend everybody so I'm grateful.

I am not going to be able to follow your lead. I’m going to keep kind of things at a higher level. But just kind of wanted to start off with just noting a couple of personal things and I think that puts the gratitude in context.

So, I mean I was obviously appointed to the Commission this year, earlier this year in February. I cannot believe it's been 11 months, just cannot believe it. In some ways it's like I don't know how it happened and the other ways it's like, “Oh my God, it feels like forever,” so I just wanted to go from there --
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: You didn’t have a single gray hair before you started, Siva. (Laughter.)

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes, and other aspects of my physical stuff that’s beginning to emerge. But I kind of wanted to just say Chair, thank you. Thank you for helping me get comfortable with the idea of being on the Commission, for your support. Obviously, thanks to the Administration, Governor Newsom, the Governor's Office, specifically Ana Matosantos, Alice Reynolds that we work so closely with on a number of issues. And I just want to say my thanks there. And Kristi Stauffacher who helps with their appointments, so just a real big thanks for both the appointment and since then just with all the four colleagues that I have. Thank you for being for being so gracious and generous with me. I’ve become very comfortable.

First, I tried to figure out how I should be different in this role, but I feel like I just should be myself and just be, which is -- you all have been mentors to me when I was staff, and you continue to be my mentors in a lot of different aspects. I draw a lot of strength from your example, from your courage in fighting for the climate fight, but also your courage in being able to tackle big things. So I learn from each one of you every day. It's really helpful to be on the dais with you and
doing this fight with you all is just easier and it also is comforting to be in all of your company.

I know both Commissioner Douglas -- I think she turned off her video -- and Commissioner Monahan do not like to be given thanks, so I’m going to make it extra special for them. Thank you to both of you for all your support this year. Commissioner Douglas, it's been amazing working with you on reliability and resource planning, the SB 100 implementation as a whole. Commissioner McAllister, Commissioner Monahan, you -- and I mentioned this in previous business meetings -- you have been a regular check-in on me, just making sure that I’m doing well and offering your support on making sure I do a good job, but also take care of myself. So just thank you so much for being wonderful colleagues.

And Chair, thank you for being you. We need that childlike passion, exuberance and compassion, which you all have so thanks for bringing that to the Commission and inspiring all of us to do a good job.

Kind of from there I just want to go in linear fashion, which is my team. Miina Holloway the Executive Assistant, Le-Quyen who came in as the interim Chief of Staff, but also Liz Gill, Sudhakar Konala who are advisors, and now Erik Lyon who has come in to support while Liz and
Sudhakar are out, and a student that I had, and John who is a fellow with us, a (indiscernible) fellow, so just thank you all.

Miina, I wouldn't know how I would get through day to day without your kind of kindness being a good anchor for me, checking in with me. Making sure that I don't do anything outside of who I am, so thank you for regularly keeping me anchored to what you think are good parts of me.

So, and I kind of will go from there to just main teams and say thank you on the main teams. As Commissioner McAllister noted we had some incredible advances in some of the work we do. Obviously, reliability has been the centerpiece for my responsibility this year. And I know there's so many staff that have worked on this across multiple divisions: DRDD, STEP and obviously EAD. I just want to say kudos to the team for keeping the lights on. We got through 2021. I know 2022 is upon us and we’ll kind of do a good job, but that has been an 18-month marathon. This Thanksgiving was the first time I actually took three days off and I turned off my cell phone in 18 months. And the only reason I know that is because that is what many of our staff have done for 18 months. And it's not it's not only a reflection of appreciation, but I'm also really sorry that everybody has to work as hard as we
did to keep the lights on and move forward. So, to all staff, you know who you are, thank you for bringing your best and the brightest to the table every single day.

A couple of high-level recognitions there. Obviously Aleecia Gutierrez who leads the EAD Division as a whole. Mike Sokol who has been an amazing partner on the building decarb. Shawn Pittard from STEP who's been incredible I mean, thank you for -- You know, Shawn, again we are blessed with these generous people, but you have that extra-special kindness that you bring to the table.

Thank you, Shawn, for doing that.

And ERDD, Laurie ten Hope. And the other couple of people that have been instrumental in reliability from our team is Justin Cochran who, I don't know who else works as much as Justin does. He has a dark sense of humor. I love that about you, because it brings problems to the table to solve. But Justin thank you for such hard work on so many fronts on the emergency.

And Linda Barrera we could not have gone through our Emergency Proclamation this year without your office’s support. And thank you so much for helping the Emergency Proc, but since then all the work we've done.

And I think there's an opportunity to just note the interagency collaboration as Commissioner McAllister did. We could not have gone through reliability success
without partners from DWR, CPUC, CARB and CAISO. So from
DWR just noting a couple of staff members, Ted Craddock and
his team, and Joel Ledesma who are both working on the
energy space of the reliability, for reliability purposes.

CPUC, all the Commissioners, thank you so much
for being such wonderful partners to us and be attending so
many of the IEPR workshops here, especially Commissioner
Rechtschaffen. And definitely get a pizza, (indiscernible)
coffee sometime (indiscernible) for all the meetings.

But I also want to take an opportunity here to
thank Simon Baker, Pete Skala and finally Ed Randolph. And
just want to note that we have Ed Randolph retiring this
year as well as President Batjer at the end of this year.
Incredible people, a lot of wealth of knowledge.

To President Batjer for her incredible generosity
and leadership for the climate goals of California, thanks
to her and wishing her the best. And to Ed 10 years of
leading Energy Division is not a small issue, so thank you
for doing that. And it will be big shoes to fill,
hopefully we'll have a good team there. And on the top of
that CPUC is also going to lose Saul Gomez to CNRA, which
we benefit from, but CPUC is going to lose that with Saul,
you've been a part of all the work, reliability work, so
thank you so much for that work.

On the CARB team Rajinder Sahota and the work on
the scoping plan and the intersection with the SB 100 implementation process.

And as well as CAISO Mark Rothleder, Neil Millar, Anna McKenna, Delphine Hou and obviously Elliot Mainzer.

So I just want to thank the interagency collaboration and without that we would not have been able to succeed this year.

Outside of that just as a point of noting we have leaned on developers this year. We have leaned on IOUs, POUs, CCAs to find every megawatt we could, similar to what we've done in 2020 including LADWP, SMUD, a number of developers. I'm not going to name names, but just thank you so much.

I think it's important to note here we are in an energy transition and some of the developers and some of the works that we were leaning on our partners, not only for reliability for the energy transition, I just want to say thank you for your work during those times and thank you for working with us to move towards a cleaner and reliable future for the state of California.

And I will just second Commission McAllister and all the names that he mentioned internally, but I do want to note maybe five or six names from EAD specifically. On the main core areas that EAD has worked on this year obviously include the forecasting improvements, building
decarbonization work, demand scenarios like supply-side resource planning as well as reliability and progress on the overarching data work.

So there's a couple of interagency reports that we wrote this year, so I just want to say on the midterm reliability and the DER work just Tom Flynn, Erik Lyon, Hilary Poore thank you so much for all your work on that as well as Mark Kootstra -- sorry, I'm losing my names here -- Chris McLean, Angela Tanghetti, Lana Wong, Rachel MacDonald, Hannah Craig, thank you for all the work you've done in the resource planning and the broader reliability pieces. Obviously western states, Grace Anderson and Chris again; the data regs Ryan Eggers, Amanda Poletti.

And forecasting team, it's been a very hard year for the forecasting team both in terms of resource constraints this year, but also just a lot of asks from them to include climate impacts very quickly and then some of the timely things that we're dealing with. So Matt Coldwell, Heidi, Nick Fugate and Lynn Marshall thank you so much for all your work on all fronts.

Building decarb Mike Jaske, Aida Escala, Nick Janusch and Ingrid Neumann. And under reliability again, just want to say, David Erne, Al Alvarado (phonetic), people who have worked on this issue, so we continue to bring these pieces together.
On gas evolution and transitional issues as Commissioner McAllister already pointed out Melissa Jones thank you for your leadership on that aspect along with Katie elder as well as the (Indiscernible.) team, including Jennifer Campagna, Jason Orta, all the people that are working behind the scenes.

There's so many other pieces that I wanted to add just at a high level: Noemi thank you for being a wonderful colleague and a mentor to me. I want to be vulnerable. I'm an immigrant, a person of color; there’s plenty for me to learn on diversity and equity. Thank you for helping me learn, I thank you for making that a part of our DNA and thank you for bringing those aspects to the table every day. I look to you for guidance, I look to you for leadership and heart in those issues and looking forward to working with your next year’s IEPR. And on just all the Small Offices Jason was mentioned for data.

On closing, DACAG, I think I just have to stop for a minute and thank DACAG. Because they took the time to meet with me one-on-one many times this year and helped me understand some of the topics, so to all the DACAG members thank you so much for your time in helping educate me and do a good job in this role.

And all the stakeholders, without you we wouldn't do our job so thank you for taking the time. Obviously, we
don't have intervener compensation like PUC, and CARB does a lot of different issues. You are here on your own time and dime to help move the public conversation and without you we can’t do a good job, to all the stakeholders. And for both pushing us forward but questioning the decisions we make. Thank you so much for all your support on that.

And in the Executive Office, Drew, my friend and colleague. It's funny we both call each other bosses now, it's a really confusing discussion. But I always look to you, Drew, as kind of an anchor for me in kind of keeping my moral compass straight, so thank you so much for your support.

And you know, the media and comm teams and lead teams thanks for your help with reliability, my confirmation process, all of it. Thank you. Thank you everybody, Lindsay and Anna and your entire teams.

So now that would be my executive summary. I would like to stop there. (Laughter.) I have another 32 pages of recording to be done.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Just like the IEPR, yes.
VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes, like the IEPR. So I’ll stop there, but in closing again I wanted to just share a couple of personal thoughts. The last two years has been incredibly difficult for a number of our staff. It has been a reckoning for the country from justice. From the
point of view of the impacts of climate, the differences we
have on things I would assume we should all agree on like
climate and COVID. We begin to see the differences more
often than the similarities that bind us, and it has been a
pressure cooker in the country and sometimes in the state.
But I feel safe in this community in CEC and this family of
people.

We bring in our differences, but there is so much
common thread that binds us. There is kindness, there is
commitment to climate, there is commitment to equity, there
is a continuous desire to foster a good culture to move us
all forward. And for that I’m thankful to every leader
that's visible on the dais, every leader that is not
visible and behind the curtains that continue to foster
that culture here. So I just want to say thank you to each
one of you for moving us all forward and yeah, for another
year moving forward.

I hope you all have wonderful holidays this
season and get to spend some time with family, but also
thank you for your hearts that you bring to the table.

Thanks.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those beautiful
and heartfelt comments and for all the heart you have
brought to the work, Vice Chair Gunda. I just couldn't be
more grateful. I know I speak for all of us when I say
that, just what a wonderful, wonderful addition in this new role you've been and will be.

So, with that let's turn to Commissioner Douglas.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Great, thank you Chair Hochschild, and thank you to my colleagues who've spoken already. And I sincerely support and second all of your comments and thanks.

So last December I, and we all recognized the Energy Commission staff, for their ability to quickly adjust to work from home in response to the pandemic. And to keep their focus on the job and help us get the job done and be as productive and more productive as we have really been, even with all the change and everything going on.

And I want to just build off of that and thank all of the Energy Commission staff again for their resiliency and commitment to public service and our mission as these challenges continue.

And I'm just going to go through some divisions. I'll be a little higher level, but I wanted to recognize some of the really significant achievements with a number of the divisions that I've worked very closely with.

And so, in terms of the Renewable Energy Division some of their achievements this year include helping get the Lithium Valley Commission up off the ground and providing them with really invaluable administrative and
substantive support. Chief Counsel's Office was very engaged in that as well, of course. Getting the CalSHAPE guidelines and program off the ground and into implementation. Obtaining Energy Commission and OAL approval of updates to the RPS enforcement regulations. And initiating the pre-rulemaking process for updates that are coming to the Power Source Disclosure Program among many other things.

And the Renewable Energy Division is where a lot of either new programs or programs transferred from other parts of the Commission have come from. They’ve really not only had to step up and adjust to increasing workload in their core programs, but they’ve absorbed a number of additional work and initiatives and done so very well, and with a tremendous commitment to keeping things on time and keeping the work at a high level of quality.

In terms of the STEP Division citing, transmission, environmental protection, we've really seen the STEP Division have to rise to the occasion in this past year. They've played a major role in our reliability-related efforts including the summer reliability challenges and needs, improving our situational awareness during critical summer moments. And being available on call and outside of work hours to deal with events and eventualities that that would arise sometimes at inconvenient times, and
just letting us know about them in real time. Leading efforts to identify opportunities from existing resources to supply critical megawatts at net peak times. Contributing to many of our critical reports and analyses, including the SB 100 report, 60-day report and the 2021 draft IEPR. And moving very expeditiously to respond to the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, including their close coordination with Department of Water resources on the State Power Augmentation project. And establishing an expedited review for battery energy storage systems and for amendments and alterations that help address these critical summer needs.

The STEP Division has also had a major role to play in the launch of really important planning initiatives, including the SB 100 Resource Build process in partnership with the Energy Assessments Division, the CPUC and the CAISO. Helping lead three public workshops and delivering a starting point scenario for the CAISO’s 20-year transmission outlook and providing critical support to California’s approach to offshore wind energy, including coordination with multiple key state agencies and the Federal Government. And implementation of key parts of the 2021 and 2022 State Budget. It's been a major initiative and a lot of work and effort.

They've also supported the Lithium Valley effort.
when it comes to permitting and having some really key and
important conversations with Imperial County about how to
coordinate very, very closely between the Energy Commission
and the County.

Chief Counsel’s Office I, as the Attorney
Commissioner, I work especially closely with Chief
Counsel’s Office. I appreciate the challenges and the
critical nature of the role that they play. The Chief
Counsel’s Office has provided really important and
appreciated legal advice and counsel. They do that on all
facets of our work, both for Commissioners and
Commissioners Offices and for the Executive Director and
staff for proceedings and events, large and small, every
single day here at the Commission. It's an incredibly
critical support role that they play. And the scope of
work ranges from contracts, grants, loans, adoption and
implementation of regulations, litigation, presiding over
citing matters, and more.

Some highlights that I wanted to call out include
their strong support and hard work in the RPS enforcement
rulemaking. Their work in supporting us in a revise and
legal analysis on some of the substantive, and policy and
legal issues that we had to look at coming out of that.
Providing support for Small Power Plant Exemption
proceedings for both staff and the Committees. And helping
with and playing a key role in both helping formulate and
implement the Governor's Emergency Proclamation. And
supporting the DACAG and Lithium Valley Commission. I
can't help them enough; it's really, really important.

I also wanted to call out the work of the
Secretariat and the Dockets Unit. There have been multiple
times when they've stayed late to allow us to docket
something where it was just important, there was a deadline
or there was a key reason to get something docketed. And
they've been able to accommodate that.

I wanted to call out the work of the Office of
Audits, Investigation and Program Review led by our Chief
Auditor Lisa Negri for her really important work and her
team of ensuring that we're good stewards of public funds.
And particularly looking at both our internal work, but
also our grant programs. There was a time when we had a
backlog of audit findings, and we had a need to just get a
process in place for smoothing that out and responding
timely and resolving issues timely. And she's really
stepped up working with the Audit Committee and with staff
to make that happen, so much appreciation for her as well
as to our Grant Ombudsman Jennifer Martin-Gallardo.

And the Public Advisor, who due in part to some
of her great work this year, is now heading an office that
we have renamed and given a broader portfolio to. So now
it’s the Office of the Public Advisor, Energy, Equity and Tribal Affairs, PAO+. And her incredible work, support, sensitivity and just knowledge of how to do and how to support outreach and engagement, her commitment to ensuring that the Energy Commission be a government body that is accessible to the public and wherever they come from and from whatever point of view, but that the public feel that they can come here and engage in our processes is critically important. She supported our rollout to remote processes and helped us think through how to make remote workshops and hearings work. And tirelessly supporting each division and taking on new initiatives, including a refresh of our internal and external equity and diversity efforts.

I want to call out our tribal team: Tom Gates, also Katrina our new Tribal Liaison, just really appreciate their work and their achievements this last year.

On ERDD I think the Chair will talk more about ERRD, but I just wanted to mention they made major contributions in the initiative to pull together the Energy Trailer Bill and just really do some big thinking about how California can invest now, even more in our energy future.

Administrative Services Division, similarly, just tremendous workload this year with the move to a new building, with all of the budget and other work.
IEPR team, of course, and I think Andrew already
spoke to that. But I had the opportunity to go to many
workshops and, as always, they were very well done.
And I wanted to personally thank the Executive
Office and executive leadership Drew and Linda and the
entire executive leadership team for your hard work and
commitment to our mission and to our staff, and the IT
team.

And now last, I’ll go to my office, Ollie
Awolowo, my Advisors Kourtney and Eli, John Hilliard the
Technical Advisor to Commissioners for citing matters, and
Mark Ennis (phonetic) and our offshore wind Fellow.
So last of all but not least in any way I thank
you, my colleagues. And I’m very proud of the work we've
done together, and I really appreciate and enjoy the
collaboration that we have with each other and with the
many agencies that we work with a number of you have
already called out. And I just really appreciate and enjoy
being part of this much greater effort and for the greater
good of California and the state and national and even
international leadership that we're able to show, so thank
you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much,
Commissioner.

Let's turn now to Commissioner Monahan.
COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I wanted to start by
acknowledging two people who are retiring from the Fuels
and Transportation Division. There are two big sets of
shoes to fill.

I’m going to start with John Butler. I don’t
know if you guys know that John is retiring, this is his
last year at the Energy Commission. And John has just
been a rock for the Fuels and Transportation Division and
for the CEC more broadly. I mean, John keeps the trains
running on time and he's ably stewarded the many grants
handled by the Fuels and Transportation Division.

As Hannon came on as new Deputy Director of the
Fuels and Transportation Division, John was really seminal
in helping him be able to adjust to his new job and not
have to worry about grants management. With no drama and
an abundance of competence and a sly sense of humor John
has really been an exemplary public servant. As the budget
of the Clean Transportation program expanded eightfold in
one year, John was and has been really indispensable in
setting up good processes to manage that money. So, let's
just all wish John all the best as he transitions to
retirement, thank you for this. A little clap for John.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: How many years has it been for
John?

COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I don’t know. Drew would
know more than me because he's been at CEC Fuels and Transportation Division, I think it's just been like a decade. So maybe Drew in his remarks can give more of a longer history of John's contributions to the Agency.

So, the next one I want to acknowledge Jean Baronas. I don't know if you guys intersect with her on the hydrogen side, but she's been the hydrogen leader forever and a day, as long as I can tell. So, Jean really has a no-nonsense approach to building out hydrogen infrastructure. She's really data-oriented and standardization-oriented. Don't get her started on standards, because she will talk your ear off. When I first started at the Energy Commission I really leaned heavily on Jean, her expertise and her years of experience. And she was willing to just like educate me, so I will always be thankful to her for helping integrate me into the world of hydrogen and the CEC.

So, she's retiring from the CEC but not from work. She's going to be using her standards-based approach to embark on a new project involving teaching and research. She's building software systems to modularize learning and support people who are underserved in schools. So it's a loss to us, but we wish her well. And she's really trained up her team to step in.

So, with that I want to just reiterate some of
the messages I’ve heard from other Commissioners. Just this recognition that this has been a time of enormous change at the Energy Commission, to go from being in the office every day, working on paper. When I first started at the Energy Commission, “I was like we work on paper?” to this point where we are able to work with perhaps even greater efficiency from home.

I think the greater efficiency, though, as Vice Chair Gunda and others have referenced comes with a cost where there's no private time anymore. And you work on the weekends, and you work on nights and you -- and so trying to figure out a way to balance the urgency of the work we do with the need to tend to our families and make sure that we are all coming, bringing our A-game to work and not bringing our tired over-stressed. I continue to feel like if we don't have time for exercise and family then we're not going to perform well in the workplace. And we need to carve out time, because that actually helps us be better and be kinder to others.

So, I want to start with some thank-you's. I'm going to stay somewhat high-level, so I’m sure I’m going to forget many people. But I want to start with Drew who just is amazing as a resource, I think, for all of us. Drew’s advice is always so grounded in his strategic thinking, and I just really count on Drew to give me good
insights and to help me make good decisions based on good information. So just really appreciate his competence and his sense of humor, which is always enjoyable.

On the government affairs side it's really been great to have Anna on our team and she's been really helpful with AB, with well what we thought was going to be AB 8 reauthorization last year, but it just turned out to be $1.165 billion of General Fund monies to help us with clean transportation programs. So, Anna has just been amazing.

And Alana, it took so long to get this MOU with the City of Zhangjiakou in China pulled together. And Alana was there all the way, for years getting this to the finish line, so thanks Alana.

We've already heard -- I mean the IEPR team rockstars, Heather, all, I really appreciate all you've done to make these IEPR workshops so seamless and to get things done on time, so really appreciate the whole team.

The PAO+, which I’m glad Noemi came up with that moniker because it's easier to remember, just Noemi you have been an amazing partner. And as we try to think through what benefits mean in transportation and having that integrate with what's happening, the project that you're managing on the CEC-wide level I think has just been so critical. And you are a joy to work with, so thank you.
I also want to thank Dorothy who I intersect with a fair amount in PAO+ and she's also been really wonderful to work with.

From the CCO’s side, Linda, you’re a rockstar. We really appreciate having you as the leader of CCO. But the team has been great, Allan Ward, Renee who helps me on so many levels. I have come to deeply appreciate the work of CCO as someone who is not an attorney and tends to be a little sanguine about things. CCO keeps me on track, so please keep making me stay in line, I want to make sure that I’m doing everything by the book, and CCO really helps me to do that.

And the media and communication side, Lindsay you're amazing. And all the different things that you do to make sure that we can communicate effectively with the public and especially for me on the clean transportation side has just been wonderful. And Tom, who is a new addition, newish, he’s just an amazing person to work with and I feel very lucky that he's helping navigate the transportation world.

So, let's see I’ll do FTD last, just quick shout-out at ERDD. So, of course, Laurie and Jonah are amazing stewards. And we are going to miss Laurie. That's a whole separate crying that we must do, and I’m sure the Chair is going to bring tears to our eyes about Laurie. And we
welcome Jonah.

I want to call out Ben Wender who has been an amazing thought leader on the side of how do we do R&D that intersects well with clean transportation. So Ben thank you for being such a great thought partner, really look forward to working with you next year.

And EAD I wanted to call out well Aleecia is great, we welcome you to your new role. And the team of folks at EAD that have been working on transportation there’s been just so much evolution in EAD. And Vice Chair Gunda, I think you were part of that transition.

But I really want to call out Heidi Javanbakht -- sorry for butchering your last name -- who was instrumental in the launch of the ZEV data portal. And she's just been really good, kind of like a thought leader in general on this intersection of transportation and electric vehicles. And she helped launch the ZEV dashboard, but it's a team of folks. Jesse who I know -- Jesse Gage who works like crazy to process data and he loves EV data; Matt Coldwell, Liz Pham, Lindsay has been part of that. So this took an integration with IT as well and communication, so there's a lot of cooks in that ZEV dashboard kitchen.

And on the forecast thanks to Matt, Clinton, Jesse, Aniss, and Robert who have all been really, really instrumental in helping I would just kind of say refresh
the transportation analysis. And they've all been really
open to this idea that we're in a state of intense learning
and we need to continue to learn and adjust as we go.

Okay, I've got to thank the IT team, because I
call on them all the time and Giana Villegas and Raj Singh
have really helped me, but others have as well, so just
thanks to IT. You guys come through all the time. I'm
desperate I'm like, "I'm in a meeting. I can't get my
Internet to work," and they immediately help me, so thank
you for all that.

All right so in the Fuels and Transportation
Division, of course, we've got to start with Hannon. I've
been calling him my unicorn, which I hope doesn't make him
develop a pointy head. But he works so hard, weekends,
nights. He's one actually, Hannon, you should take some
time off and maybe not work so many nights and weekends.
But Hannon has just been just a breath of fresh air and
just really such a dedicated, hard-working, visionary,
thoughtful, kind, competent manager and partner in all of
the work that we do. So, as we have been turning under
every rock to help build the case that we need in smart
strategic investments and zero-emission vehicle
infrastructure Hannon has just been an amazing thought
partner in that whole process. And I just deeply
appreciate all he brings, also including a sense of humor.
You'll hear that as a constant theme of mine, deeply appreciate a sense of humor: humor, humility and competence, that's the winning combination that that just bring success, I think.

So, there's been a number of big projects in the Fuels and Transportation Division over the last year. So, we had the first AB 2127 report and looking at what are our charger needs for 2030 and that team Kiel Pratt, Matt Alexander, Wendell Krell, Jeffrey Lu, Raja Ramesh, Noel Crisostomo -- who has actually recently left and gone to DOE -- just a really amazing effort. And those guys are constantly working to improve our analysis and make sure that we are making smart decisions based on good data.

So, on a nerdy side we've been trying to look at the integration of standards -- ISO 15118 o be especially nerdy -- into our investments in charging infrastructure. And there's been a lot of work on that engagement with stakeholders. And just I want to appreciate Hannon, Jeffrey and Noel for engaging the stakeholder community over standardization. We haven’t made any decisions, but it's been a really robust process.

The SB 1000 report, which is on equity led by Tiffany. And she just is amazing and keeps looking at, trying to find different ways to evaluate equity which I really appreciate.
On the Investment Plan, as you guys know, the biggest-ever investment plan and it took a big, heavy lift to get that to the finish line. Patrick Brecht, Tammy Haas, Charles Smith and Michael Comiter have all been really instrumental in that.

EnergIIZE, which we just heard about, it's the first in the nation. I also want to emphasize the 4D blueprints that took a lot of work to manage on the heavy-duty side and on the light-duty side.

There was also, as I mentioned, the hydrogen team has done a crack job, the joint AB 8 Report I think it's the best yet. You guys will be seeing it soon. And for the first time the team like reached out to international, went to Japan and Germany and is putting an international perspective on that. And with the Chair’s encouragement like collecting data on how much money other countries are putting into hydrogen infrastructure, so there will be a public unveil, I'm not going to let you know right now. But it's a great team, so that's: Gene Baronas, Jane Berner, Miki Crowell, Mark Johnson, Sebastian Serrato, Phil Cazel, Andrew Hom and Heidi Javanbakht have all have been involved in the hydrogen and work in the AB 8 report.

So, I want to acknowledge the crack team of office managers: Charles Smith, Mark Wenzel and Elizabeth John who just again, low drama, high performance, really
thoughtful, always pushing the edge and trying to do a
better job with their grants. That continuous improvement
is something I just deeply appreciate.

So lastly, there's been a team of folks that were
working on CTP funding including Hannon, Quintin Gee who
has moved over to EAD. But while he was at the Fuels and
Transportation Division, he helped a lot with that process
on the messaging and really trying to communicate
effectively data, Quintin is the master of that. Anna, and
I want acknowledge Melanie Vail who actually now is taking
over John's job in the Fuels and Transportation Division,
but she's been critical on the money management side.

So, my own office I just want to thank well first
Catherine Cross who is kind of like Hannon, she's also if
you text her any time she responds, nights, weekends.
Again, it's little worrisome, works too much but she just
manages. And she's taught me, "Don't touch my calendar --
took me a while -- don't touch it Patty." And she is going
to do a much, much better job than I ever could. And so, I
just really thank Catherine for all the work she does to
keep me showing up to meetings on time and putting together
really complicated meetings. It's not an easy job.

I want to thank my advisor Mona, who's been a new
addition to the office; so awesome, really just super-
competent, also helps me on the legal side. She's leading
our equity work, so she'll be interfacing very closely with Noemi and just is such a nice, kind person and really collaborative. So I really appreciate all that Mona does for me and for the office.

And Ben De Alba who has been with me since the beginning. And Ben has two young children that he is like literally juggling, -- thank God, because they're really cute -- they show up in meetings periodically. But he is like still delivering his A-game as he works from home. And he manages the Ports Collaborative. And Ben really can stand in for me on a lot of events. He really has a deep understanding of transportation that so in a way he's like if -- he helps me in terms of he can do things that if I can't go, I'll just be like, “Oh, Ben will do it.” And he does it so well, whether it’s public presentations he's just super-reliable, so thank you Ben for all that you do.

I also want to thank Le-Quyen who I feel like is an adjunct advisor to all of us, I don't know how she does it. She's incredible, so competent. And whether it's like putting together a brunch to welcome Vice Chair Gunda or it's a complicated meeting or it's a complicated subject around policy Le-Quyen does it all. And so, Chair, you are lucky, but we are also. We thank you for sharing her with all of us.
So, I would also like to just say that I feel so lucky to work in an organization so collaborative as ours. And every year I just have a deeper appreciation for my fellow Commissioners and all that you bring. And I don't think I’ve ever worked in an organization where the leadership brought so little ego to the game. Where the focus is, “How do we help meet California’s critical energy needs?” and not, “How do I further my own political or personal career?” So, I just want to thank everybody for kind of checking your ego at the door when it comes to work.

And yeah, I learn from you all every day that we interface with each other, and I look forward to learning more in the years to come.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those beautiful comments, Commissioner. I really, really appreciate it and resonate. I’d just like to build off of that.

I will recognize a number of folks, but I just wanted to first share two thoughts and one is just building off of that, which is I’ve been beekeeping for over 15 years now, Commissioner McAllister does as well. And I've always been inspired by the concept of collective intelligence, which is what honeybees exhibit and they make good decisions as a group. I really feel like that's actually how we're meant to be. And there's something
incredibly satisfying when you really feel that. And I think in any marriage you have this sort of unconscious allocation of responsibilities who's going to remember what, who's going to handle what. And it’s sort of true at work too. And just you kind of know when it works and there's just an incredibly complimentary set of skills and talents and that all is with a shared purpose and a collaborative spirit.

And I’ve worked at a number of dysfunctional organizations over the years, and so then I just never take that for granted. I feel so, so grateful for that and just the team-first spirit that I think we have and which, I think, has continued to grow and expand every month as we bring on new talent. And I just really just feel that.

The second point I want to make is just about rest. This has been an intense year. It’s been an intense two years. And people are working really hard such as to set up today's meeting to do three quarters of a billion dollar (indiscernible). And we need to rest, everybody needs that. And I really want to just urge everyone, particularly over these winter holidays, to turn off the phone, get off the screen, reconnect with loved ones, reconnect with nature, restore.

We need that and that's what's going to keep us all in a position to be able to keep doing this important
work. There is nothing more important than your own health
and being connected to your loved ones, to your body, to
nature. Those things are what keep us going. And so
really that's my request to everybody is over the holidays
to really unplug and get some downtime and really savor
that and restore.

So, I did want to run through some of my thank-
yous. Mostly what I feel about our whole team is just,
wow, I feel so amazed and grateful for the team all around
us. Just starting with my own advisors, Le-Quyen I don't
know what I would do without you. I actually do know,
because I went to the COP without you and I left a governor
waiting for an hour, I mean it was a mess. So basically, I
just am so grateful for how you keep everything organized
to keep me on track and just the ability to see around
corners and fix so many problems and just be so
constructive and so relentlessly amazing. You're
incredible to the staff and the Energy Commission is better
for it.

Terra, just so grateful for your energy and
talent and passion for what you do, the role in Lithium
Valley. And before that your contributions to the solar-
mandated SB 100 and all the things you worked on since
you've been here and just the professionalism that you
bring. And the SB 100 process, I think, was just a home
run and that's been spread far and wide.

Ken, your depths on building decarb and all the related issues has just been invaluable, and so grateful for your fountain of ideas.

Justin Cochran, my Emergency Advisor you will not run out of things to do in this day and age, keeping you very busy but I just appreciate your steady hand on the wheel.

Jen Martin-Gallardo, this wonderful role you're fulfilling in supporting our grant applicants, improving the process, advocating constantly for better, simpler processes for grant-making is so appreciated by all the stakeholders, and even more important now with all this additional money coming through. Thank you for everything you do.

My Military Advisor, Mike Gravely. We had a terrific event with the Navy and the Marine Corps and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy signing a five-year MOU last week. And just everything you did to set that up to pioneer electric vehicle charging and energy storage on all these military base installations and seeing that spread around the country, just incredible.

Alana Sanchez, my International Advisor, thank you for setting up all the terrific visits and meetings and travel during my trip to the UK and Europe for offshore
wind, just tremendous and for the wonderful symposium we did with Germany and California recently.

We have four positions in addition to the five of us on the Commission, four positions at CEC that are appointed by the Governor and have worked really hard to support outstanding candidates there. Those are now all filled, and I just couldn't be more thrilled.

Lindsay Buckley, our amazing Communications Advisor, Communications Lead at the Media Shop, just so much vision and professionalism. Who have made their documents readable and better graphics and video, just the upgrade there and just the talent you've shown in the staff you've hired, incredible.

Anna Ferrera, the passion you bring for energy to the Government Affairs and International Affairs and all your rich experience in the Legislature and federal government and state government is so appreciated.

And then Noemi and Katrina, at the Public Advisors. Noemi, if you were a car you'd be a -- I don't know which fantastic car to pick but you'd be top of the line, an Electric Rolls Royce maybe. I couldn't be more grateful for just the passion you bring for inclusion and all the different ways that that's expressing itself through policy, through these events.

And then just to bring us together, I mean we'd
had this amazing unity celebration just a week or so ago
creating an occasion for people just to share their
personal journeys, how they got to where they are at the
Energy Commission and to see each other as people. And
you're the heartbeat of the Energy Commission, Noemi, and I
really mean that.

And then Katrina, what a pleasure to bond with
you on our trip to the north coast to visit all the tribes
with Commissioner Douglas and all the others. I'm just
super-excited for what you're going to do in your role of
Tribal Liaison.

Linda Barrera, my goodness, how did we get so
lucky? I just had very, very high expectations for you and
you started, and you've exceeded those very high
expectations. Just incredible professionalism, attention
to detail, outstanding legal judgment, very high EQ, very
high diplomacy and just passion for the mission. And you
have excelled and are building an amazing team and we just
lucked out with you in this role. So as hard as it was to
lose Darcy, I'm really just enormously grateful to have you
in the CCO role and that's just a really crucial role for
the whole Commission.

I wanted to especially call out Rob Cook who is
kind of behind the scenes of just keeping everything
running, in particular with our budget. Rob, I know you've
been working amazingly hard, and you and Noemi handling all this influx of new money. And the move and so on, and I just am very grateful for that.

And then Carousel Gore, you also just to have provided an incredible, rich array of skills and gifts in terms of how to problem-solve and create a healthy culture and resolve HR issues that come up, so thank you for all that.

Drew, of course, just endless energy, endless insight and just passion for the mission. It's just a joy to work with you and I am so proud of what we're all doing together.

Laurie, we've fete'd you thoroughly, but I can't say enough about you. And I think, in addition, all you've done to get us to this place I think really your greatest legacy is actually in the inspiration that you provide to your team and to the Energy Commission. And for younger people coming up and getting hired to have you there as a role model, to see what affluence looks like, and the good that we can do if we do our job well. You’ve showed us the way. And Jonah, so proud of you to come in and fill those big shoes.

And I’m really excited to be Lead, getting together with Commissioner McAllister on ERDD and for all the good we're going to do together.
So, I’ll stop there, and just thank everybody again. And we've taken almost two hours to do these thank-yous, but it's time well-spent.

So, with that let's move on to Item 11, Executive Director’s Report.

MR. BOHAN: Thank you, Chair, Commissioners for all those acknowledgments of so many of our staff who have contributed to our success. Yes, it took a long time, but it really is the aspect of our organization that's the most important. You look and read any book on how to run an organization, it says, “People, people, people,” so thank you for that.

As I discussed with some of you earlier this week with a couple exceptions, I’m not going to mention names this year, instead I just want to thank the entire nearly 700 people in our organization that make it tick every day, everybody. This includes staff, management, appointees and, of course, the five of you, thank you all.

I want to just say a few things. This was the year of settling in and 2020 was a shock for all of us. And it required big adjustments in each of our lives. By 2021 a lot of us have gotten a rhythm and right now we're mostly working at home. I’m going into the office it feels like going into an empty football stadium. It's a space designed for a lot of people and there's nobody there, so
hopefully that will get righted soon.

But the good news is two years ago some people thought telework might promote sloth. In fact, just the opposite has happened as some of you have acknowledged and our productivity has gone up, in part because work is never more than a flipped-open laptop away. And it's allowed us to hurdle into 2021 with breakneck speed and continue through it and tick off just a number of accomplishments I want to just hit really briefly.

But it's at a pace we need to manage, and I think we need to manage it a little better. So the Executive Office and others are talking about how best to interface with the five of you. I’ve talked to each of you about this, but how can we in the coming year find better ways and really be intentional about helping us all continue to fulfill our mission and do good work, while also achieving in some cases a little better, healthier life-work balance than we've been doing. So more to come on that.

In terms of our mission, CEC is helping identify the best way to best ways to meet this massive, clean energy challenge before us. And I just want to tick through a few things.

One, we're making possible what increasingly seems like an inevitable revolution in the way we drive cars.
We're raising the bar on energy efficiency ever higher.

We're developing innovative ways to shift energy consumption to times of the day when energy is cheap and abundant.

We're certifying renewable resources and making sure utilities meet their statutory RPS obligations. We basically manage the rules of the game.

We're peering into the future to help us procure the required resources. And to ideate on the policies that California will need to solve the climate crisis.

We're investing in research to find innovative solutions.

We're managing our thermal generation fleet, which today is still critical to our reliability. And we're doing it in a way that keeps people safe.

And we're setting the standard for how to thoughtfully reach out and engage to all Californians. And we owe a debt of gratitude to all the assistance we've gotten from everybody who participates in the work that we do.

Each of us at the CEC is making a ding in the universe, to borrow a phrase from Steve Jobs, and I think it's really an extremely positive ding.

And now for the exceptions I mentioned earlier. I
just want to take a moment to thank two people who report
directly to me and the Executive Office and who I work
closely with on a daily, sometimes hourly basis.

Linda you all know, Linda Spiegel has been Chief
Deputy for less than a year, but it feels like we've been
working together very closely for a long time. She's
brilliant, she's tenacious and she's just genuinely a kind
person who approaches a lot of the knotty problems we spend
a lot of time discussing with a kindness and thoughtfulness
that's just wonderful to deal with. Thank you, Linda.

And Gaylene Cooper who, thank you Commissioner
McAllister for acknowledging her, she's the rock of the
Executive Office but she's kind of the rock of the whole
organization. She's also brilliant, she's tireless and
she's about as steady as it gets. And I want to thank her
for jumping into everything that's needed, and particularly
to help you out, Commissioner McAllister, so thank you
Gaylene.

And, again, I just want to say thank you to the
whole team. Have a great holiday break and I’ll see you
next year.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Drew.

Let's turn now to Item 12, Public Advisor’s
Report.

MS. GALLARDO: Hello everybody, this is Noemi,
the Public Advisor. I want to say I’ve never been compared to a car before or any type of vehicle, but there is a Lamborghini that has my last name (indiscernible) think of it, Chair.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, well it’s the electric Lamborghini. (Laughter.)

MS. GALLARDO: And so, I want to tell you all that I just feel like being at the Energy Commission has made me a better person, so I’m very grateful for that. I'm grateful to all of you for having the trust and confidence in me. One, just to have me be here in the first place as Public Advisor. And then two, also to expand the Office of the Public Advisor to include energy, equity and tribal affairs. And we're not going to let you down on that.

On that note I do want to thank my team, the PAO+ team of Rosemary and Dorothy who have been with me since the beginning, Katrina and Tom who are new but feel like -- I feel so comfortable with them, I feel like they've been there forever. Jayme, my new assistant, who has hit the ground running. And Kaylin (phonetic) and Taher (phonetic), our interns who we lean on a lot for extra support, even in this business meeting.

And then I also want to thank real quick, the Executive Office, Chief Counsel's Office, particularly Lisa
and Patricia.

Media Public Communications Office and IT,
particularly Giana, Patty, Raj and David. We're working on
so many efforts together, so on behalf of PAO+ we love and
appreciate you, thank you.

And then just a couple individuals, Carousel
Gore. She has been my thought partner on the inclusion,
diversity, equity and access initiative. We've been doing
that since 2019. I think we've done and made a lot of
progress and we're looking to do more, so expect that.
She's also my moral support and my good friend, so thank
you, Carousel.

Le-Quyen I also wanted to give out a shout-out
to, because she's also my advisor, my mentor, my go-to when
anything is going wrong or I’m not sure what to do, and she
always figures out how to fix things.

And Laurie ten Hope as well, has been an
incredible partner to me since the beginning. So
Commissioner Monahan, if you want to have a crying session
together when Laurie actually leaves, I will need it, so
I'll be with you on that one. And so that's it for me.
Again, thank you to everybody.

And I want to give a reminder to our attendees to
please join us for the Hall of Fame on Friday. It's going
to be a wonderful event where we celebrate folks who are
working to make a clean energy future for all of us here in California. So I put the link in the chat, please register.

And with that, Chair, I can also give the instructions for the Public Comment, Item 13 whenever you're ready.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: That would be great, thank you.

MS. GALLARDO: All right. So this is the period for any person wishing to comment on information items or reports of the meeting agenda or any other item. Each person has up to three minutes to comment. Comments are limited to one representative per organization. We may reduce the comment time depending on the number of commenters.

Please use the raised-hand icon to indicate your interest in making public comment. If you're on the phone press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute. After you are called on, please restate and spell your name. If you are affiliated with an organization, tribe, any other type of entity please let us know. And do not use the speakerphone when talking, because we won't hear you clearly.

I will look for hands now. All right, Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We can continue.
CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you, Noemi.

Let's turn now to Item 14, Chief Counsel's Report.

MS. BARRERA: Good afternoon. Oh, my goodness, it’s so hard to go after so many great speeches. And thanks for your mentions during the business meeting. I also want to thank you for a great year full of accomplishments. Your leadership and kindness makes my job easy and a joy to work for you, all five Commissioners, and further the Energy Commission's mission.

I’m also extremely thankful to the Executive Office, in particular to Drew and Linda Spiegel and Gaylene and all the Deputy Directors for being great clients and collaborators.

I also want to thank every member of the Chief Counsel’s Office for their thoughtful, thorough and diligent work to support staff, the executive team and our Commissioners. I feel extremely grateful to have the opportunity to lead an office of attorneys and professional staff in a positive and collaborative way. And we just will continue to be excited to help you, staff and Executive Office innovate and establish like what Commissioner Monahan said earlier, first-in-the-nation programs to advance clean energy for all Californians.

And so thanks, thank you so much. And I hope
that everybody has a great end of the year, and that we are all able to rest a little bit, so that we can energize and be all have the gas -- not gas, but electric charge for next year.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Linda.

Well just before we wrap up, I do want to say again, I really liked a term that Commission McAllister used I think when we adopted the Energy Code in August, which was “embedded wisdom.” There's a lot of embedded wisdom in that decision, because of our process, because of all the teamwork. And so that's really, I think, that applies to the Energy Commission as a whole, the way we're working now and the results we’re producing, the decisions we’re making, the grant-making we're doing. There's a lot of embedded wisdom and that comes from all the talent we have and how we are working together and having a healthy culture.

And that's on all of us to keep building that, to keep growing that. And just like our policy work I think that also spreads. And when we can show how to live and work and support each other and be successful and be a team, that spreads beyond the Energy Commission. It spreads into our lives, into our sister agencies. And I think we're really modeling that. And I look forward to many more months and years together of doing this work and...
keeping pushing the mission forward.

So, thank you to everybody and have a great holiday. We'll see you on the other side.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Chair? Chair, may I?

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh yeah, go ahead Vice Chair?

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I apologize. I wanted to just take the queue and be brave about this.

I lost two names, I just wanted to call them out.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I felt really bad about leaving Gordon Schremp. We depend on him for all petroleum issues and gas (indiscernible). And he was on the next page in my executive summary, but the last name got cut off. And then Cary Garcia on the forecasting team. I just wanted to mention those two names, which I forgot, thank you.

CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Outstanding.

Okay, have a good holiday everyone. Thank you.

(The Business Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.)
REPORTER’S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of December, 2021.

[Signature]

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CER**D-493
Notary Public
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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of December, 2021.

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Certified Transcriber
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