

DOCKETED

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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

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Phil Cazal	7
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Also Present: (Via Remote)

Invited Comments:

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Robert Sarvey,	2

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a. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss any of the following matters to which the CEC is a party:	
i. <i>In the Matter of U.S. Department of Energy (High Level Waste Repository) (Atomic Safety Licensing Board, CAB-04, 63-001-HLW); State of California v. United States Department of Energy (9th Cir. Docket No. 09-71014)</i>	

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iii. <i>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)</i>	
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.	
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 DECEMBER 8, 2021

10:05 a.m.

3 (Start of Introductory Video.)

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

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

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

18 Consistent with Assembly Bill 361 today's
19 business meeting is being held remotely through Zoom to
20 improve and enhance public access to state meetings during
21 the COVID-19 pandemic. The public can participate in the
22 business meeting consistent with the instruction for remote
23 participation found in the notice of this meeting and as
24 set forth in the agenda posted to the Energy Commission's
25 website.

1 Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title
2 20, section 1104(e) any person may make oral comments on
3 any agenda item.

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

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

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

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

23 Welcome to the California Energy Commission's
24 business meeting. The meeting will now begin.

25 (End of Introductory Video.)

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(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

1 Center. For our Youth Game-Changer Award, the Communities
2 for a Better Environment's Youth for Environmental Justice.
3 And our Clean Energy Champion Award winners are Abigail
4 Solis, Manager of Sustainable Energy Solutions at Self-Help
5 Enterprises; Eddie Ahn, Executive Director of Brightline
6 Defense; Nicole Capretz, Founder and Executive Director of
7 the Climate Action Campaign; and Mutual Housing of
8 California.

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

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

21 I'm also very excited to announce a major
22 milestone, which is that today we're going to be voting on
23 \$730 million in grants during this business meeting. To my
24 knowledge this is the single greatest amount of money that
25 we have granted in a single meeting. We've done programs

1 like Prop 39 was \$1.75 billion, but that was over several
2 years. This is really an important milestone, and I want
3 to just pay tribute to all the staff and all the different
4 programs who helped develop these, to all the stakeholders
5 for participating.

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

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

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

23 MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public
24 Advisor. So I will remind our audience if you would like
25 to make a comment on Item 1, the Consent Calendar, please

10

1 use the raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you are on by
2 phone please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.

3 Chair, I do not see any hands. We can proceed.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Unless there is any
5 Commissioner discussion, Vice Chair Gunda, would you be
6 willing to move Item 1?

7 COMMISSIONER GUNDA: Yes, Chair, thank you. I
8 move Item 1.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And so, Commissioner Monahan,
10 would you be willing to second?

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. All in favor say aye.
13 Vice Chair Gunda?

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

16 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Commissioner Douglas?

20 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

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

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

25 MR. LEE: Good morning, Chair Hochschild and

1 Commissioners. I'm Ralph Lee with the Chief Counsel's
2 Office appearing on behalf of the Committee that the Energy
3 Commission appointed to preside over the proceeding and
4 review of the Applicant SV1, LLC's application for a Small
5 Power Plant Exemption, known as an SPPE, for the proposed
6 Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility in San Jose,
7 California.

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

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

25 What the Applicant proposes is to construct and

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

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

17 The backup generating facility would serve the
18 data center as a backup for its primary power supply
19 delivered by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, commonly
20 known as PG&E. The electricity would be supplied by either
21 PG&E or the community-choice energy aggregator San Jose
22 Clean Energy. The backup generators would be run for
23 testing and maintenance, but otherwise usually would not
24 operate unless there is an interruption of power from the
25 local electric utility.

1 Under the Warren-Alquist Act section 25541, the
2 Energy Commission may grant a small power plant exemption
3 only when it makes three separate and distinct findings.
4 First, that the proposed power plant has a generating
5 capacity of up to 100 megawatts. Second, that no
6 substantial adverse impact on the environment will result
7 from the construction or operation of the power plant. And
8 third, that no substantial adverse impact on energy
9 resources will result from the construction or operation of
10 the power plant.

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

18 Please note that if the Energy Commission adopts
19 the Committee Proposed Decision that adoption would not
20 approve the project. Instead, if the Energy Commission
21 grants a small power plant exemption the Applicant would
22 still be required to obtain permits and licenses from other
23 local agencies before it would be allowed to be built and
24 operated. In this case, those agencies would include the
25 city of San Jose and the Bay Area Air Quality Management

1 District. Those agencies will also conduct any other
2 environmental analysis necessary as responsible agencies
3 under CEQA.

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

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

24 The Committee's also proposed Condition of
25 Exemption PD-2 that precludes any of the electricity from

1 the Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility from being
2 used for any other facility, property or use, including but
3 not limited to delivery to the electric distribution system
4 known as the Grid without the express authorization of the
5 Energy Commission.

6 The Proposed Decision concludes that the
7 project's generating capacity meets the requirements of the
8 Warren-Alquist Act.

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

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

24 CEQA also requires that the Energy Commission may
25 delegate reporting or monitoring responsibilities to

1 another public agency that accepts the delegation. For
2 this project, the City of San Jose has agreed to monitor
3 the Applicant's performance of the mitigation measures that
4 the Committee has recommended.

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

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

21 As usual, the public was presented a full
22 opportunity to participate at every stage of this
23 proceeding. We had meaningful and substantive
24 participation from the parties, including the Applicant,
25 staff and one intervenor, Robert Sarvey. The Energy

1 Commission received comments on the project after the
2 scoping meeting in late 2020. The Energy Commission
3 received comments from Nick Renna, Claire Warshaw, the Bay
4 Area Air Quality Management District, LH, the Oak Grove
5 School District, and the Native American Heritage
6 Commission. The Energy Commission also received public
7 comments on the draft EIR from Claire Warshaw, the Bay Area
8 Air Quality Management District, the Applicant, the City of
9 San Jose and Enchanted Rock.

10 The Committee provided Notice of Availability for
11 its Proposed Decision on November 24th, 2021. This Notice
12 of Availability was sent electronically to the Proof of
13 Service List and the listserv and was sent via U.S. mail to
14 a list of property owners, occupants, and responsible and
15 trustee agencies. The Notice of Availability invited
16 written comments on the Proposed Decision, and it asked
17 that written comments be received no later than December
18 6th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

19 We received comments from the Intervenor Robert
20 Sarvey, and from Energy Commission staff. Intervenor
21 Sarvey's comments on the Proposed Decision essentially
22 repeat the contentions he raised in his post-hearing brief,
23 all of which have been appropriately addressed in the
24 Committee Proposed Decision, including without limitation
25 on Pages 34 through 40.

1 Intervenor Sarvey may speak for himself regarding
2 his comments. If he does speak staff, the Project
3 Applicant, or I can be ready to address any questions the
4 Commission may have about his comments. Nothing in his
5 written comments on the Proposed Decision establish an
6 unmitigated significant environmental impact, nor do they
7 otherwise prevent or provide any other basis to reject the
8 Committee's Proposed Decision.

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

22 The Committee recommends granting staff's request
23 for an errata reflecting these clarifications and adopting
24 the errata to the Proposed Decision that was filed in the
25 docket today at about 8:50 this morning.

1 I therefore recommend that the Energy Commission
2 adopt the proposed order on the Committee Proposed Decision
3 that was filed in the docket for this proceeding on
4 November 24th, 2021, with a modification to the first
5 paragraph on Page 1 of the Order to incorporate the errata
6 by deleting the bracketed material and replacing it with an
7 errata, dated December 8th, 2021. And also adding a
8 footnote to the docket transaction number for the errata,
9 which is TN 240873.

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

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank so much, Ralph.

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

20 MS. DECARLO: Thank you. Good morning, Chair,
21 Commissioners. Lisa DeCarlo, Energy Commission Staff
22 Attorney. With me today is Lisa Worrall, Energy
23 Commission Project Manager for this proceeding as well as
24 numerous technical staff who are available to respond to
25 any technical questions Commissioners may have.

1 Staff would like to thank Commissioner Douglas,
2 Chair Hochschild and your respective Advisors and Hearing
3 Officers Ralph Lee and Susan Cochran for your leadership in
4 this proceeding, as well as the Applicant and Mr. Robert
5 Sarvey for their participation.

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

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

21 The Commission has already answered this question
22 with a "no" in its approval of the exemption for the
23 Sequoia Data Center earlier this year. The uncontroverted
24 evidence in the record of the proceeding currently before
25 you, shows that no agency routinely models emergency

1 operations of backup generators for the purpose of
2 evaluating the significance of criteria-polluting impacts
3 under CEQA. There is no expert consensus about how such an
4 evaluation should be conducted in order to produce
5 meaningful information about such a project's potential
6 impacts. And there is no consensus about what operational
7 profile or profiles is reasonable to assume for the
8 modeling. And no consensus as to how to evaluate the
9 results of such modeling in order to determine whether it
10 reflects a significant impact or not.

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

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

25 Staff provided substantial evidence to support

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

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

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

19 Staff recommends the Commission adopt the
20 Proposed Decision and is available to answer any questions.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thanks so much, Lisa.

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

25 MR. GALATI: Good morning, Chair, good morning,

1 Commissioners. Thank you very much for this opportunity to
2 address you and we obviously are representing Equinix. We
3 ask that you adopt the Proposed Decision with the errata
4 that we support.

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

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

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

17 Just to hit one more time with the punch line, is
18 these emergency generators are an insurance policy. That
19 is what they are. We hope to never turn them on. We hope
20 for the stability of the grid to never require it. And
21 even though we've gone through some very unstable times
22 over the last couple of summers Equinix did not have to
23 turn on its emergency generators in its other facilities.
24 So we do have a very stable grid. It is continuing to
25 become more stable. I think that you will find that these

1 generators operate in a very, very small fashion for
2 testing and maintenance and now they are equipped with the
3 best available control technology that exists.

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

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

20 I'd also like to call out Ms. Gallardo. The
21 public outreach was important. There was quite a bit of
22 public comment at the very beginning of the project, though
23 most of that was some confusion with the Energy
24 Commission's terminology. As a small power plant, I think
25 most people were thinking that there was going to be a

1 power plant around the corner, as opposed to a data center
2 with some backup generating facilities. But once that was
3 cleared up, I think that we were able to address all of the
4 issues. I think that was that the process worked and
5 that's how it should work, and we appreciate that.

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

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Mr. Galati.

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

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

19 Commissioners, the California Air Resources
20 Board, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District
21 have asked you in this proceeding and several other data
22 center proceedings to model the emergency emissions from
23 this and other data center projects. Unfortunately, this
24 Proposed Decision continues to allow 100-plus megawatt
25 diesel arrays (phonetic) to operate without understanding

1 their impact on the environment or the public.

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

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

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

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Mr. Sarvey.

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

23 MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public
24 Advisor. I'd like to remind the audience or our attendees,
25 if you'd like to make a public comment to please use the

1 raised-hand feature on Zoom. If you are on by phone,
2 please raise your hand by pressing *9 and then *6 to
3 unmute.

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

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

7 MS. GALLARDO: We can continue.

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

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

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

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

1 opportunity.

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

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

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

17 I also wanted to just emphasize that we did, of
18 course, get important input and comments from Bay Area Air
19 Quality Management District and the City of San Jose. And
20 this is actually the first SPPE proceeding in which staff
21 has prepared an Environmental Impact Report. And this
22 environmental document allowed for a robust evaluation of
23 potential environmental and energy resource impacts,
24 including analyzing a reasonable range of potentially
25 feasible alternatives to the proposed projects.

1 I also wanted to underscore again -- and I know
2 we talked about this every time one of these comes up --
3 but the CEC proposed action today is not in itself an
4 approval of the Applicant's proposed project as Mr. Galati
5 noted. What the CEC approval does is it would exempt the
6 project from the CEC's Application for Certification, or
7 AFC process, but the project must still obtain approvals
8 from the City of San Jose and the Bay Area Air Quality
9 Management District.

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I do have one question
22 actually.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Yeah, please go ahead.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Just quickly, so I
25 understand and agree with everything that's been said on

1 this by staff and Commissioner Douglas as well. And so I
2 understand that, the landscape. I guess, maybe I would
3 like to ask staff, a little bit more about the role of the
4 Bay Area AQMD just in terms of we obviously all have to be
5 concerned about the air quality impacts and the greenhouse
6 gas emissions, particulates, etcetera. I understand Mr.
7 Galati's point that there is a best available control
8 technology in place on this, or there will be on this
9 project if it gets constructed. But I just wanted to make
10 sure that -- put on the record and sort of ask staff to
11 tell us a little bit more about Bay Area's process to make
12 sure that those emissions are actually covered from an
13 overall environmental impact perspective.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, a good question.

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

23 And in terms of emergency operations, we really
24 don't -- the evidence in the record doesn't show that these
25 facilities will operate a significant amount of time. And

31

1 so we feel that with the selective catalytic reduction, the
2 diesel particulate filters applied to the generators, and
3 the limitations on the operations, at least in a routine
4 fashion, that the project will not create a significant
5 adverse impact as a result of potential generator
6 operations.

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

15 MS. DECARLO: Yes.

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

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

21 MR. GALATI: Yes, I would just like to also
22 remind the Committee that the emissions for NOx will be
23 offset by the Applicant by and/or through the Bay Area's
24 process to ensure that those offsets are done in a net air
25 quality benefit range. And those will be offset based on

32

1 the projected use for testing and maintenance even though
2 we always project a little more use than we actually run.

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

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

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Got it. Okay, helpful.
10 Any other questions or comments? If not,
11 Commissioner Douglas I'd welcome a motion on this item from
12 you.

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

17 MR. LEE: Yes. I propose the motion should be to
18 adopt the proposed order on Committee Proposed Decision
19 that was filed in the docket for this proceeding on
20 November 24th, 2021, with a modification to the first
21 paragraph on Page 1 to incorporate the errata by deleting
22 the bracketed material and replacing it with an errata
23 dated December 8th, 2021. And also adding a footnote to
24 the Docket Transaction Number for the errata, which is TN
25 240873.

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
2 Lee. So moved.

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

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I'll second this item.

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

8 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

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

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

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

25 Before discussing the two processes subject to

1 the order I want to identify three specific benefits of
2 this rulemaking, which can be described as: Align,
3 Modernize, and Streamline.

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

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

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

22 Streamline: Amending the language will allow for
23 the removal of redundant layers of process while preserving
24 the CEC's detailed environmental review as well as the
25 agency and public engagement under CEQA. Next slide.

35

1 The CEC has exclusive licensing authority over
2 thermal powerplants 50 megawatts or larger which includes
3 geothermal powerplants. The Warren-Alquist Act authorizes
4 the CEC to delegate, as appropriate, licensing authority to
5 counties for geothermal powerplants. The process for such
6 delegation as currently set forth in the CEC's regulations
7 is complex, time-consuming and has never been utilized.
8 The order before you would direct staff to work with
9 stakeholders to improve the process allowing for a
10 potential avenue for more efficient licensing of geothermal
11 powerplants thus expanding renewable energy generation.

12 The second process subject to this order is a
13 small power plant exemption process. The Warren-Alquist
14 Act provides that the CEC can exempt thermal powerplants
15 100 megawatts or less from its jurisdiction if certain
16 findings are made. Like the geothermal regulations the
17 small power plant exemption regulations are dated and in
18 need of amendments to improve the process for exempting
19 these smaller projects to achieve the benefits noted in the
20 previous slide. Because the CEC continues to act as lead
21 agency under CEQA for these exemptions the CEC will
22 continue to provide a robust environmental review and
23 opportunities for public and agency input as required under
24 CEQA regardless of amendments made to CEC's SPPE
25 procedures. Next slide.

1 Staff recommends approval of the Order
2 Instituting the Rulemaking authorizing staff, under the
3 guidance of the Lead Commissioner, to carry out the
4 rulemaking process consistent with the Administrative
5 Procedures Act and California Environmental Quality Act and
6 to present the proposed regulations at a future business
7 meeting for adoption.

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

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Jared.

11 Let's turn to public comment on Item 3.

12 MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public
13 Advisor, reminding attendees if you would like to make a
14 comment on Item Number 3 please use the raise hand feature.
15 If you are on by phone press *9 to raise your hand and then
16 *6 to unmute.

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

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

25 We thank the Commissioner very much for opening

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

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

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

24 MS. GALLARDO: All right, thank you.

25 I do not see any other hands raised, Chair. I

1 think we can continue.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

3 Let's turn now to Commissioner Douglas.

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

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

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

22 And the CEQA process itself is a very robust
23 process. We utilize that process for SPPEs and I really
24 think -- and then of course in our current process we have
25 an adjudicative layer on top of that. And I really think

1 for the kinds of projects that fall within the SPPE
2 process, doing a CEQA analysis with all of the safeguards
3 and public participation and agency coordination that is
4 involved is appropriate and sufficient.

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

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

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much
20 Commissioner.

21 Any comments on this? Vice Chair Gunda, please.

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

25 Coming into this business meeting, as with any

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

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

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

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

1 supporting the item.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Vice Chair Gunda.

3 Any other? Yes, Commissioner Monahan, please.

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

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioners.

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

19 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yeah, I move approval this
20 item.

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

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second it.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, all in favor say aye.

25 Commissioner Douglas?

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

3 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

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

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: We'll turn now to Item 4,
11 Touchstone Benchmarking, LLC.

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

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

24 It creates a single, statewide covered-buildings
25 list for commercial and multifamily buildings. And this

1 will ensure that the CEC is only contacting building owners
2 who are required to comply with the statewide program.

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

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

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

13 Next slide, please.

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

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

24 Funding for this agreement is from the Cost of
25 Implementation Account or COIA. Next slide, please.

1 This agreement also includes development of a
2 customized, interactive statewide map with enhanced visuals
3 including individual building performance metrics such as
4 ENERGY STAR score and energy use intensity, provides the
5 ability to compare buildings by size, type and location.
6 And building data will be compiled annually for historical
7 year-over-year comparison. Next slide, please.

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

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

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

17 Let's turn to public comment.

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

24 Chair, I do not see any hands raised. We can
25 proceed.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Let's turn to
2 Commissioner McAllister to make it a start.

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

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

22 And now this enables us to kind of take it to the
23 next level and as Christine said really get a more rigorous
24 and systematic view of the buildings that are required to
25 comply with our benchmarking statute. And right now,

1 that's at 50,000 square feet and up multifamily and
2 nonresidential buildings, so relatively large ones.

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

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

21 And so this tool really kind of, I think, raises
22 the -- well it standardizes in a way that other
23 jurisdictions are also doing and it also kind of raises the
24 level of the program. And Christine ticked off some of the
25 reasons how that's going to happen, but overall it'll

1 create a covered list that gives us much more insight into
2 who's complying and who's not, it'll increase compliance, I
3 think, just by that transparency effort, and it'll also
4 enable us to follow up with the buildings that aren't
5 complying. And then eventually, if and when we get a
6 building performance standard or we put it in programs that
7 are going to actively incentivize and encourage building
8 owners to invest in their buildings to improve performance,
9 then this provides the information for us to target those
10 efforts.

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

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

20 I would finally just call out our partnership
21 with ENERGY STAR on this. They have invested in the
22 performance, in the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, which is
23 really the industry standard tool. And the Biden
24 Administration is looking at how they can improve it,
25 constantly further, and we're involved in those

1 conversations as well. And I just want to give props to
2 the ENERGY STAR, the EPA team. It's on all things ENERGY
3 STAR, but particularly Portfolio Manager. And also the
4 resources that they have put together and are developing
5 further for building performance standards, so they've got
6 a good toolkit for that as well.

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

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

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

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

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, thank you, Chair

1 Hochschild. And thank you, Commissioner McAllister, for
2 adding that additional context. And thank you Christine
3 for going through the overview of this proposed support --
4 sorry, I'm just completely blanking on my words today. I
5 stayed up too late. Just kidding, but I just wanted to
6 make two quick points.

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

17 And then also just anytime we do this data work
18 it's just as a good point to recognize the incredible staff
19 we have that are trying to take advantage of all the data
20 we have and provide analysis. I also want to call out
21 Jason Harville for his efforts at the enterprise level to
22 modernize infrastructure, but also to just acknowledge
23 Efficiency Division specifically about the work that they
24 have been doing, both on the benchmarking side, the pace
25 side; just kind of taking advantage of the data that we are

1 getting in. So this is one more incremental movement
2 towards modernizing our overall efforts.

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

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

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yes, I will.

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

22 But this is a key industry. You know, energy
23 efficiency already is hundreds of thousands of jobs in our
24 state. But as we, both at the Commission and sort of
25 facilitating outside the Commission in ways that obviously

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1 don't impede, that don't sort of go - you know, that
2 respect everyone's privacy. And obviously, that is of
3 upmost importance. And Jason, I agree, did a great job
4 there.

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

14 And so I think we always have to sort of say,
15 "Look, we know that there is a lot of potential in the
16 demand side, but we really have to go the extra mile to
17 create the conditions that we can quantify it and make it
18 accountable. And so I think all of these efforts really
19 are working towards that overall goal. And I just have to
20 give props again to Vice Chair Gunda for all the
21 conversation on the reliability side and keeping, creating
22 the conditions of equivalence that we really can. We are
23 approaching the demand side with the level of rigor that's
24 necessary. So this is one small piece of that overall kind
25 of approach. But the context, it always helps to kind of

1 keep reinforcing that that we're building something new on
2 the demand side. It really is going to raise the level,
3 but it does take new ways of thinking and a lot of data.

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

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, thank you.

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

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I second Item 4.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.

11 Commissioner McAllister?

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

18 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

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

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

23 MS. LUM: Good morning, Chair and Commissioners.

24 I'm Quenby Lum, an Associate Energy Specialist from the
25 Energy Research and Development Division. Today we are

1 recommending one award from a recent EPIC solicitation
2 focused on projects to advance technologies in mobile
3 renewable backup generation. Four other projects from this
4 solicitation were approved at a previous business meeting.

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

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

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

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

25 The proposed awardee is The Center for

1 Transportation and the Environment. The project team will
2 be designing and demonstrating a hydrogen fuel cell mobile
3 backup generation vehicle. This project is unique, because
4 it is a self-sufficient and self-contained system. The
5 truck will run on hydrogen, and it will also use hydrogen
6 fuel to supply the backup generation.

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

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

24 The vehicle will be fitted with standard
25 electrical outlets that are compatible with any household

1 appliance and electronic device without the need for
2 special adapters. Next slide, please.

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

10 Combined, these generators can emit approximately
11 440,000 metric tons of CO2 per year, which is equivalent to
12 approximately 95,000 passenger vehicles. Replacing all of
13 the diesel backup generators in these air districts with
14 emissions-free wind, solar, and hydrogen generators could
15 not only mitigate these greenhouse gas emissions, but also
16 contribute to reductions in other pollutants such as
17 particulate matter, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides that
18 are harmful to local communities. Next slide, please.

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

22 With me today are Erik Brewer from the Center for
23 Transportation and the Environment, Bill Dietrich from the
24 Chief Counsel's Office, and Mike Gravely from the Energy
25 Systems Research Office who are available to answer

1 questions you may have. This concludes my presentation,
2 thank you.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Quenby.

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

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

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

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

20 Let's start with Commissioner Monahan.

21 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, just to build on
22 what you were saying, Chair, I mean I think it's really
23 exciting to see how hydrogen fuel cells and batteries,
24 together with solar, wind, are playing this important role
25 for backup power.

1 And I live in Berkeley and when the power goes
2 out, I hear a lot of backup generators just popping up in
3 every household. So as Quenby said, there's 21,000
4 permitted diesel backup generators, many more diesel backup
5 generators just showing up in homes. And so it's just
6 exciting to think of the role that clean energy could play
7 in backup generation generally.

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

16 I also want to comment on Cummins who's playing a
17 role in this. And Cummins is a leader on alternative fuel
18 engines generally. They recently moved into the California
19 Fuel Cell Partnership building and opened this I think
20 21,000 square foot space for fuel cell technologies in the
21 heavy-duty sector. So it's just great to see partners like
22 Cummins investing in hydrogen fuel cell technologies that
23 we're going to need for meeting especially goods-movement
24 related decarbonization.

25 So, it's an exciting sort of connecting the dots,

1 as you said Chair, in terms of like we know we don't need
2 these silos. We've got a silo bust. And this grant is one
3 example of that.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Silo busting, yes.

5 Vice Chair Gunda, go ahead.

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

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

22 So, I just wanted to say I think I am learning
23 every time we do a project like this we bring something to
24 the business meeting. There's an opportunity for me
25 individually as that, as a person to learn the

1 opportunities here. So Quenby, thank you to you and the
2 entire R&D team, on kind of continuing this conversation on
3 alternate fuel pathways for decarbonizing the economy. So
4 just wanted to note that.

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

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

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, please. Mm-hmm.

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

23 And just even in terms of the transition from to
24 being able to use green hydrogen in these types of
25 technologies, I think it's something that we should really

1 focus on. In the work that I do around renewables I do
2 think there are some opportunity areas, there are some
3 geographies where we can really -- and some technologies
4 where we can really produce a lot of renewable energy. And
5 so knowing that there are and could be these kind of cost-
6 effective and really important use cases is helpful. And
7 so I'm really supportive of this.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

9 Let's see, with that unless there's other
10 comments --

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I do have my hand up
12 here.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, sorry. Go ahead.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: No worries, yeah. So
15 just chiming I agree particularly with what Commissioner
16 Douglas just said, but all my colleague have said so far.

17 And I think there's a real imperative to
18 understand hydrogen and really sort of get increasingly
19 hard information, firm information about sort of the
20 different use cases, in particular sort of potentially
21 high-value use cases like this where the hydrogen economy
22 is kind of likely to start and take root. So we can really
23 project where it's likely to go, what role it's going to
24 play across the various sectors, starting more or less
25 primarily with transportation, but on the industrial side.

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1 And really finding those off-takers that can add high value
2 and therefore can support that ecosystem I think is really
3 important.

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

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

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

24 I do want to make a request if I could, to Mike
25 Gravely, to share the deck that we've just developed on our

1 hydrogen roadmap with all of my fellow Commissioners.
2 We've gotten a number of requests from legislators on this
3 question. And we've developed what I think is an excellent
4 overview of the key issues, the key questions, the swim
5 lanes that we see as an agency on this. And it's a great
6 briefing document, so if we could share that with my
7 colleagues. I don't know if everybody has seen that yet.
8 It just got finished.

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

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I move Item 5.

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

16 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second Item 5.

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

19 Commissioner McAllister?

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan?

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

24 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item
3 5 passes unanimously.

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

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

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

20 Before I continue, I just wanted to provide a
21 brief overview of the project. As I mentioned earlier the
22 project will involve developing wireless charging
23 infrastructure to charge a switcher locomotive.
24 Transmitter pads will be placed along an eight-foot-long
25 stretch of railroad track, and it will transmit energy to a

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1 receiver on the locomotive. Thus, the receiver on the
2 locomotive will receive energy as the locomotive goes down
3 the stretch of track that transmitters are located within.

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

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

22 Moreover, the project will result in emission
23 reductions in the Anaheim area. Both the locomotives and
24 charging technology used for this project are zero-
25 emission. The Recipient has estimated that there will be a

1 reduction of 532.2 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
2 greenhouse gases each year. This is important because the
3 project site location at Coast Rail Services railyard is
4 located in a heavily pollution-burdened disadvantaged
5 community according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0. All the major
6 railyards in the South Coast Air Basin, which are potential
7 sites for deployment of the wireless charging for battery-
8 electric locomotives are located either in or directly
9 adjacent to a disadvantaged community. This project has
10 the potential to significantly improve the air and health
11 of the local community.

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

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

24 The next step they will take is to design, build,
25 and test a full-scale WPT system that can transfer 75

1 kilowatts of power. They will build this system at their
2 workshop in Fullerton. After they finish building it, they
3 will perform function and performance tests on the system
4 at the workshop. After the system passes tests, it would be
5 integrated into the battery locomotive at the Coast Rail
6 Services railyard in Anaheim. Function and performance
7 tests will be performed on it afterwards. And once the
8 system passes these tests it will be demonstrated at the
9 railyard for 12 months. Next slide, please.

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

19 Another potential market in the future for the
20 WPT system is passenger rail agencies. They can
21 potentially use the WPTs at passenger train stations and
22 service yards to charge passenger locomotives and railcars.
23 There are at least 100 passenger locomotives and 500
24 passenger railcars in California, so there is much
25 potential to use WPTs to charge hundreds of locomotives and

1 railcars. Most of these locomotives and railcars would be
2 used for commuter and intercity routes where trains stop
3 frequently.

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

12 Staff recommends approval of the \$270,000 grant
13 with the Rail Propulsion Systems, LLC, and adoption of
14 staff's determination that the projects are exempt from
15 CEQA.

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

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Alex.

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

21 MS. GALLARDO: This is Noemi Gallardo, the Public
22 Advisor. Reminding attendees if you would like to comment
23 on Item Number 6, please raise your hand using what looks
24 like the high-five icon on the screen. If you are on by
25 phone please press *9 to raise your hand, *6 to unmute.

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

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Let's turn to Commissioner
4 Monahan.

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

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

24 So, I love the fact that Rail Propulsion Systems
25 is located in Fullerton, California. And can I just say,

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1 "Come to California companies that are investing in
2 innovative charging." And we have a grant program that
3 will be -- we have \$250 million over two years that the
4 Legislature has given us to encourage companies to come to
5 California and put down roots and help us meet our clean
6 energy goals and help us drive a clean energy economy with
7 good jobs here in the state.

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

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Hear, hear.

14 Other Commissioners wishing to make a comment,
15 Commissioner McAllister?

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

24 Then also when they go over passes, they do have
25 a lot of -- there's a lot of stored, potential energy up at

1 the top of one of these passes. And going down the
2 backside of a pass seems like would be a prime opportunity
3 to do some sort of breaking, some wireless breaking with
4 induction kind of like a car. And obviously there's a lot
5 of potential, there would be a lot of potential energy
6 there. So just kind of wondering, the different themes
7 that those are sort of part of the overall plan going
8 forward and if we're looking at those opportunities?

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

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Alex, you're very, very
12 -- there you go.

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

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

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

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, right.

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: And in fact, transit buses

1 are doing this right now: Antelope Valley, other -- Long
2 Beach. So it's more like how do you get a little extra
3 juice, not how do you refuel the whole vehicle. But I love
4 your ideas around rail and how we can think about future
5 investments.

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

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

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

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 6.

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

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I'd second.

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

20 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

1 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 MR. CAZEL: Okay, good morning again. My name is
19 Phil Cazel with the Fuels and Transportation Division.
20 Today staff is seeking approval of the two agreements
21 listed in Item 7. If approved, CALSTART and the Center for
22 Sustainable Energy, or CSE, will each design, implement,
23 and manage up to \$250 million for incentives that will be
24 made available to install electric vehicle charging
25 infrastructure.

1 Today we are requesting approval of up to \$1
2 million in start-up costs for each grant agreement and
3 approval to delegate authority to the Executive Director to
4 approve additional future funds of up to \$250 million per
5 agreement. Next slide, please.

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

11 The incentives offered under the proposed
12 agreements will support the growth of widespread,
13 accessible, and convenient charging infrastructure that is
14 critical to the growth of transportation electrification in
15 California. They will also facilitate increased zero
16 emission vehicle adoption, which surpassed 1 million in
17 cumulative vehicle sales last month. All this contributes
18 to the State's 2025 goal of 250,000 public and shared
19 chargers, and to closing the gap identified in the CEC's AB
20 2127 Report of the estimated 1.2 million chargers that will
21 be needed by 2030 for light-duty vehicles.

22 Finally, in addition to leading to better air
23 quality and GHG reductions, these incentives will also
24 focus on adding more charging locations in disadvantaged
25 communities, low-income communities, and multi-unit

1 dwellings to address community transportation needs and
2 yield direct local benefits. Next slide, please.

3 The proposed agreements will design incentive
4 programs based on identified needs and opportunities. The
5 \$1 million in start-up costs proposed for approval in each
6 agreement today will be used to perform community outreach
7 and for public workshops that will provide input to develop
8 the incentive programs, as well as to develop software and
9 processes needed to implement the incentives.

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

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

22 The two proposed agreements would implement
23 concurrent and complementary incentive programs. The
24 specific projects will be designed with stakeholder and
25 community input. They will invest in low-income and

1 disadvantaged communities and advance equity goals as well
2 as meeting the need to accelerate deployment of chargers.
3 Incentive programs developed by CALSTART and CSE will
4 provide the tools needed to ensure equity and community
5 needs are met.

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

13 We are seeking your approval of these two
14 agreements, a. and b. in Item 7. Today's approval would
15 provide approximately \$1 million in start-up costs for each
16 agreement and delegate authority to the Executive Director
17 to approve future funding for each approved project or
18 phase of incentives developed by CALSTART and CSE, up to
19 \$250 million cap per agreement.

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

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

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

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

14 MS. GILDE: Wonderful. Thank you so much.
15 Alycia Gilde, Senior Director at CALSTART. Well good
16 morning, Commissioners and stakeholders vested in advancing
17 a clean energy and transportation future. On behalf of
18 CALSTART we are honored to be selected as an implementer
19 for the second block grant for light-duty electric vehicle
20 charger incentive projects.

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

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1 low-income and disadvantaged communities.

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

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

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

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

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

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

25 MS. GALLARDO: All right, thank you.

1 Oh yes, so I do see another hand raised, this is
2 Peter Colwell. Peter, a reminder for you to restate your
3 name, spell it and indicate your affiliation if any. Your
4 line is open, and you may begin. And Peter, you may need
5 to unmute on your end.

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

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

15 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

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

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

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

24 And this, we're looking at this opportunity to
25 have two different implementers as a way to rapidly deploy

1 charging infrastructure and to do it in a way that's
2 attentive to equity. You know, we have a goal of having
3 250,000 chargers by 2025 with the funding from the
4 Legislature. We want to make sure that we can meet that
5 goal, and so we'll be investing strategically and using the
6 results of our SB 1000 equity analysis to make sure that
7 we're constantly titrating (phonetic) our investments to be
8 attentive to equity.

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

20 And so I also wanted to say that I think of block
21 grants as a great way to rapidly deploy infrastructure.
22 We're still going to be having our own grant programs that
23 we manage, because we don't have all the answers. And
24 especially when it comes to multifamily dwellings, we
25 really don't have all the answers.

1 So, I look forward to working with CALSTART and
2 CSE, congratulate both of them. They've both done a great
3 job in applying for in their applications for these block
4 grants. And we need to move quickly to make sure that we
5 can show the Legislature and the Governor's Office that
6 we're using these funds strategically, smartly and swiftly.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All right, well said.

8 Other? Yeah, Vice Chair Gunda.

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, just a very quick thing.
10 Commissioner Monahan, first of all congratulations to you
11 and your leadership on -- I know when I saw the business
12 meeting and it said \$275 million for this grant I was like,
13 "Did I misread that?" Just kind of these eye-popping
14 numbers of investments that the State of California is
15 committed to, CEC is committed to, and I'm just thrilled to
16 see this much investment going in, but also leadership.
17 And the courage that it requires to push this amount of
18 money to make sure it's done right. So Phil and the entire
19 team, thank you for your thoughtful and careful work on all
20 these things.

21 One point of ask as always, you know,
22 transportation electrification especially is going to be a
23 huge impact on the grid. And the way that electrification
24 happens on the transportation side, the time of charging
25 and potential discharging with meter G (phonetic) I just

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1 want to put a plug in for gathering information through
2 these projects as much as we can that we could really
3 leverage. We don't have a lot of data yet on these. So
4 what I ask Phil, you and the team, to please work with our
5 office and more broadly with Commissioner McAllister and
6 other -- and Commissioner Douglas. We're all working on
7 different aspects of the grid-planning side, so we'd love
8 to have an opportunity to think through opportunities for
9 information gathering and bringing them into our analytical
10 planning products. Thank you.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

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

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

1 we're going to be doing everything we can to support the
2 success of this significant investment.

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

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 7.

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

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

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: With that all in favor say
11 aye.

12 Commissioner Monahan?

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: VICE CHAIR GUNDA?

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

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

22 Let's turn now to Item 8, CALSTART.

23 MR. KOZUCH: All right. Good morning, Chair, and
24 Commissioners. My name is Matt Kozuch, staff with the
25 Fuels and Transportation Division's Freight & Transit Unit.

1 We are seeking approval today for an amendment to
2 an agreement with CALSTART, Inc. This current agreement,
3 approved at the March 2021 business meeting, covers a block
4 grant to design, implement, and fund, with CEC oversight,
5 various medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle
6 infrastructure incentive projects throughout California.
7 The proposed amendment today would augment the agreement's
8 spending authority by about \$226 million for a total grant
9 spending authority amount of nearly \$276 million, which
10 includes the \$50 million in authority previously approved
11 through the March 2021 business meeting. Next slide,
12 please.

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

23 By 2030 it's projected by CARB's 2020 Mobile
24 Source Strategy that the state will require about 180,000
25 medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles to achieve

1 current state climate and air quality goals. Preliminary
2 modeling from the CEC's AB 2127 Report estimates to support
3 this projected future vehicle population, approximately
4 157,000 DC fast chargers will be needed by 2030, including
5 up to 16,000 higher capacity 350 kilowatt chargers. This
6 agreement will help the state reach this 2030 target to
7 support future zero-emission fleets.

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

13 CALSTART will design and implement incentive
14 projects through this block grant, including targeted
15 strategies for transit bus, school bus, and drayage zero-
16 emission vehicle infrastructure. They will design
17 the internal controls, processes, and
18 procedures necessary to process block grant funding,
19 evaluate incentive requests, and produce accurate monthly
20 fiscal accounting and reporting. Furthermore, CALSTART
21 will create an inclusive equity strategy that utilizes
22 focused outreach to ensure maximum project benefit to
23 underserved communities. CALSTART will begin to release
24 incentive funding publicly in waves, beginning in the first
25 quarter of 2022. Next slide, please.

1 In summary we would like to recommend approval of
2 this proposed amendment to increase this agreement's
3 spending authority to a total of about \$276 million,
4 including the \$50 million approved at the March 2021
5 business meeting.

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

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

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Matthew, appreciate
18 it.

19 Let's go to public comment on Item 8.

20 MS. GALLARDO: All right, this is Noemi Gallardo,
21 the Public Advisor. A reminder to attendees if you would
22 like to make a comment on Item Number 8, please raise your
23 hand using the icon, it looks like a high-five on the
24 screen. If you're on by phone please press *9 to raise
25 your hand, *6 to unmute.

1 I do see a hand raised, Amy Gower. A reminder to
2 restate your name, spell it for the record and indicate
3 your affiliation, if any. Oh, I just lost her. Hold on.
4 So Amy I'm opening your line, please feel free to begin and
5 you may need to unmute on your end.

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

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

19 As Matt mentioned we will begin offering
20 incentives in the first quarter of 2022 and have tailored
21 incentives to support industry and frontline communities.
22 To help applicants navigate the complicated landscape of
23 infrastructure planning we are developing an infrastructure
24 readiness center that will provide technical assistance to
25 support project participation. We are developing an

1 effective and efficient application process to support the
2 scale of infrastructure incentives needed to build
3 California's zero-emission ecosystem. With the help of our
4 partners at Tetra Tech and GRID Alternatives we are
5 developing application documents that are as fair and
6 simple as possible.

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

10 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

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

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

14 Let's turn to Commissioner Monahan.

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

23 And CALSTART congratulations to you for the
24 EnergIIIZE program. I think it's the first in the world to
25 ever have a program to fund heavy-duty ZEV infrastructure

1 through state funds and so it's really groundbreaking. And
2 the Legislature is giving us very specific goals: 1,000
3 transit buses, 1,000 school buses, 150,000 drayage tracks.
4 And we need to make sure that our programs meet these
5 goals.

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

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

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

22 One other point of I would just make is that we
23 do have a successful history of partnering with entities
24 like CALSTART and others and New Energy Nexus and many
25 others to administer big chunks of our funding when that

1 makes sense. But it really requires really robust
2 communication and when there's hurdles and challenges, just
3 having those channels of communication be open and problem-
4 solve in real time and not letting things get worse before
5 they addressed is essential. And particularly when we're
6 talking about chunks of money this size just the stakes are
7 very, very high.

8 And so I think not saying anything new here, but
9 just going forward we really depend on excellent
10 communication and problem-solving. And problems come up,
11 challenges come up, some things change and that's normal,
12 but it's the communication that really makes it successful.
13 So a few Commissioners wishing to make a comment. Let's
14 start with Commissioner McAllister.

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

24 And I think working through these big contracts,
25 assuming that it was done very competently, which I totally

1 have faith that it will be, it can really seed this field
2 in ways that I think can be really, really positive. And
3 the idea that we go forward and sort of in tranches means
4 that we have a lot of influence over how that evolves, and
5 I think that's just a really good structure.

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

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

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

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

25 I think Vice Chair Gunda, you were going to make

1 a comment?

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

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

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

1 processes and principles.

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

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: No, I'm in strong support
22 of this. I think it is important to look for innovative
23 ways to deploy these kinds of programs. And especially as
24 we're called upon to accelerate our work in the clean
25 energy transition and move more funding out faster to meet

1 these needs out in California for key infrastructure, like
2 I'm in full support of this kind of approach.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great. Well, thank you.

4 Just a few final thoughts before I invite a
5 motion on this item. Commissioner Monahan is very modest
6 about her role in this but arriving at the Energy
7 Commission when she did was just this perfect storm of
8 opportunity, that we pushed and pushed for resources and
9 got them. And your good judgment, your persistence, your
10 20 years of experience in clean transportation has been
11 absolutely fundamental to the progress we're making here
12 today. This is historic as we wrap up three quarters of a
13 billion dollars of approvals here at the meeting this
14 morning.

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

25 But Governor Newsom's executive order, a year

1 ago, GM I don't believe would have made the commitment to
2 go to 100 percent electric by 2035. Or all the other
3 incredible new investments and commitments we're seeing,
4 including from Ford and so forth. We are moving the
5 market.

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

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

23 So with that I would welcome --

24 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I've got to say something
25 really fast, Chair.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes, please. Please, yeah.

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

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

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

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah.

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

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

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

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 8.

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

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Second Item 8.

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

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda?

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

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

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

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Perfect.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great, thanks guys.

12 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 continue.

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

5 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes, I move Item 9.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McCallister would
7 you mind seconding that?

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.
10 Vice Chair Gunda?

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McCallister?

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

14 Commissioner Monahan?

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Douglas?

17 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Aye.

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

20 Let's turn now to Item 10, Lead Commissioner and
21 Presiding Member Reports. Commissioner McCallister, why
22 don't you start us off.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Absolutely.

24 Well, let's see, I think I mostly want to kind of
25 use this last meeting of the year to -- we're past

1 Thanksgiving -- to give some thanks. And obviously there's
2 lots going on. And just from this meeting and last month's
3 meeting just so many different themes in the hopper and so
4 much in my world and just across the Commission. I feel
5 like we are really firing on all cylinders.

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

18 I do have a bunch of names that I want to go
19 through, and I'll try to do it efficiently. But I feel
20 like we do give a lot of thanks along the way on individual
21 projects, even items at our business meetings as they come
22 before us. But this is kind of an opportunity to step back
23 and sort of take stock and think about the year past and
24 kind of get ready and start to think creatively about the
25 year to come. And not only how to accomplish our goals,

1 but also how to how to help our staffs thrive and how we
2 might tweak organizational issues and kind of just focus on
3 the human development aspect of it too, because that's
4 equally if not more important than the actual results that
5 we get as a Commission.

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

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

23 On the Small Offices, I know that I'm going to
24 repeat what other Commissioners want to say, but I can't
25 thank some of these folks. Noemi Gallardo, just your

1 competence in helping things run is fantastic and you're
2 bringing people into the Commission.

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

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

19 In the Chief Counsel's Office so many cross-
20 cutting projects and so it's a little hard to balance sort
21 of the functional divisions in the Commission and the
22 projects, so I'm trying not to call people out more than
23 once, but it might happen. In CCO on the Standards team
24 Linda Barrera is just valuable as Chief Counsel. I can't
25 just express how happy I am to have to be working with her

1 on many different topics. And her Deputy, Jimmy Qaqundah,
2 who is also just marvelous. And on specific topics Michael
3 Murza, Matt Chalmers, Josephine Crosby, Jacqueline Moore
4 and Christina Evola. That's not everybody that I've worked
5 with from my office, but some of the principles there.

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

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

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

24 And then I'll go through each office just
25 quickly. We have had so many achievements this year. The

1 building standards, moving forward on various appliance
2 efficiency standards, and getting the flexible demand
3 appliance standard rulemaking moving forward, the load
4 management standards. The list is pretty long here, so I
5 just want to call out a bunch of folks in each of the
6 offices. Existing Building Office they worked on the 3232
7 Report, really seminal stuff; and the IEPR SB 350; load
8 management standards, all under Jen Nelson's leadership, so
9 thank you Jen. And with Heather Bird, Michael Kenney,
10 Eugene Lee, Dee Anne Ross, Gavin Situ, who worked on the
11 ACEEE scorecard. And we got first this year, so I'd have
12 to call him out, thank you Gavin, and Gabe Taylor.

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

19 In Building Standards Office, next week actually
20 is the Building Standards Commission adoption of the entire
21 package of the 2022 Building Code. And we've obviously
22 adopted our part, we're one of the few non-building
23 standards commission agencies that have independent
24 adoption authority and so we've done that, thank you to my
25 colleagues and all the staff working on it. The Building

1 Standards Commission, we'll wrap that up and adopt the
2 whole package starting the conversation next week at their
3 hearings. But that work on our end has been done. We have
4 a huge team and I just want to read through this list: Mazi
5 Shirakh, Payam Bozorgchami, Danny Tam, RJ Wichert, Jeff
6 Miller, Peter Strait again, Adrian Ownby, Haile Bucaneg,
7 Javier Perez, Will Vicent, Michael Shewmaker,
8 Danuta Drozdowicz, Thao Chau, Meng Moua (phonetic), Simon
9 Lee, Alexis Markstrum, Ronald Balneg, Haider Alhabibi, Amie
10 Brousseau, Che Geiser, Chris Olvera, Bach Tsan and Muhammad
11 Saeed, those last two being new and really beginning to
12 thrive in the Commission; really happy about their presence
13 and work.

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

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

1 IT as well.

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

11 On the flexible demand appliance standards that's
12 Nick Struven, Todd Ferris, Peter Strait and Sean
13 Steffensen. That's a moving forward, it's a big lift and
14 it's something very new out of whole cloth. But I'm really
15 optimistic that we'll get that, a solid foundation during
16 2022 as well; lots of great work on that already.

17 Also, the housing and building decarbonization
18 working group that I've talked to you all about at some
19 point, Will Vicent and Javier Perez are really driving that
20 work. It's a multi-agency effort to coordinate across our
21 housing and energy programs that I think is beginning to
22 pay real benefits in terms of really having it both ways:
23 finding our cake and eating it too in terms of reaching our
24 climate goals and also facilitating housing funding
25 programs.

1 I'm sure Vice Chair Gunda will thank all these
2 people and more as well, but I cannot forget EAD. That
3 division is just really in some ways the heart and soul of
4 the Commission and will be really key and instrumental in
5 our analytical work as it deepens even further. On the
6 IEPR forecasting and on the AB 3232 work, Matt Coldwell and
7 Nick Janusch, Ingrid Neumann, Mike Jaske and Michael
8 Kenney. IEPR on natural gas, Melissa Jones and Jason Orta,
9 really great work there. On the flexible demand working
10 group or the -- sorry, supply side demand response working
11 group that's Tom Flynn, Erik Lyon, David Erne. So thanks
12 to all of you.

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

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

22 And on the data regulations that have revolved
23 around EAD and have involved a variety of staff Ryan Eggers
24 and Amanda Poletti and Eddie Rosales who is the Efficiency
25 Division, but has been involved in the PACE aspect of that.

1 So those data regs are really foundational for our
2 analytical enablement going forward.

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

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

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

20 I'm happy to be working with you Chair Hochschild
21 on the Energy Research and Development Division. And
22 Laurie ten Hope, obviously we have to just keep thanking
23 her as much as possible. Jonah Steinbuck has taken over
24 and is really doing a great job. On the industrial side,
25 Virginia Lew, Kevin Uy, David Stout, Christian Fredericks

1 and Ilia Krupenich, so thanks for all of you. On
2 efficiency integration load flexibility, the CalFLEX hub
3 David Hungerford, just a real deep skill set and knowledge
4 base on demand response and everything related, so thank
5 you David. And on building efficiency Yu Hou has been a
6 really great ERDD member for that.

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

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

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

25 And in my office, I just have to -- I mean I've

1 got such a great team and really firing on all cylinders,
2 Bryan Early my chief of staff, and you all work with Fritz
3 Foo and Bill Pennington who are playing really great roles
4 and moving the various balls forward.

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

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

21 And let's see I want to acknowledge some CAISO
22 folks, but I think I'll defer to Vice Chair Gunda on that.
23 But really, I guess I'll just go to the top and appreciate
24 Elliot Mainzer, just the culture that he's creating at the
25 CAISO of collaboration with us as well.

1 All of our stakeholders on the building
2 standards, appliances, load management, building decarb
3 generally, we just have such a, I think, arguably the most
4 kind of broad-based, numerous, active, vocal set of
5 stakeholders for all these different topics. And it just
6 really goes to the importance and the foundational nature
7 of buildings and efficiency and demand side of
8 distribution-level resources that we're so excited about
9 across the state. So really, I'm thankful to have a lot of
10 different ears to bounce things off of and maybe shoulders
11 to cry on occasionally, but generally assistance getting
12 initiatives across the finish line.

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

24 And then out there in the building sector,
25 CALSMACNA, just a great group of folks that help us get to

1 good answers; NRDC, collaborating on a number of many, many
2 fronts; the CBIA, all the builders who obviously have a big
3 stake in good decision-making at the Commission that
4 participate and contribute; many different original
5 equipment manufacturers; the California Energy Alliance;
6 (Indiscernible) our friends over at the utilities, South
7 Coast AQMD and Bay Area AQMD increasingly involved in our
8 issues around buildings and appliances, which is really
9 welcome.

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

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

1 DACAG is helping us make our best effort to do that.

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

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

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

23 You know, a year has -- a difficult year actually
24 has gone by, and I think people have really shown their
25 mettle as they manage to get things done, sort of utility

1 players, manage to find a way. And we're so grateful as an
2 as an agency and as a state to have commitment from all of
3 the different staff and stakeholders. So, I will stop
4 there and pass the mic back to you Chair Hochschild. Thank
5 you very much.

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

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

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

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

20 So, I mean I was obviously appointed to the
21 Commission this year, earlier this year in February. I
22 cannot believe it's been 11 months, just cannot believe it.
23 In some ways it's like I don't know how it happened and the
24 other ways it's like, "Oh my God, it feels like forever,"
25 so I just wanted to go from there --

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: You didn't have a single gray
2 hair before you started, Siva. (Laughter.)

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

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

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1 doing this fight with you all is just easier and it also is
2 comforting to be in all of your company.

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

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

21 Kind of from there I just want to go in linear
22 fashion, which is my team. Miina Holloway the Executive
23 Assistant, Le-Quyen who came in as the interim Chief of
24 Staff, but also Liz Gill, Sudhakar Konala who are advisors,
25 and now Erik Lyon who has come in to support while Liz and

1 Sudhakar are out, and a student that I had, and John who is
2 a fellow with us, a (indiscernible) fellow, so just thank
3 you all.

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

10 So, and I kind of will go from there to just main
11 teams and say thank you on the main teams. As Commissioner
12 McAllister noted we had some incredible advances in some of
13 the work we do. Obviously, reliability has been the
14 centerpiece for my responsibility this year. And I know
15 there's so many staff that have worked on this across
16 multiple divisions: DRDD, STEP and obviously EAD. I just
17 want to say kudos to the team for keeping the lights on.
18 We got through 2021. I know 2022 is upon us and we'll kind
19 of do a good job, but that has been an 18-month marathon.

20 This Thanksgiving was the first time I actually
21 took three days off and I turned off my cell phone in 18
22 months. And the only reason I know that is because that is
23 what many of our staff have done for 18 months. And it's
24 not it's not only a reflection of appreciation, but I'm
25 also really sorry that everybody has to work as hard as we

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1 did to keep the lights on and move forward. So, to all
2 staff, you know who you are, thank you for bringing your
3 best and the brightest to the table every single day.

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

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

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

23 And I think there's an opportunity to just note
24 the interagency collaboration as Commissioner McAllister
25 did. We could not have gone through reliability success

1 without partners from DWR, CPUC, CARB and CAISO. So from
2 DWR just noting a couple of staff members, Ted Craddock and
3 his team, and Joel Ledesma who are both working on the
4 energy space of the reliability, for reliability purposes.

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

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

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

25 On the CARB team Rajinder Sahota and the work on

1 the scoping plan and the intersection with the SB 100
2 implementation process.

3 And as well as CAISO Mark Rothleder, Neil Millar,
4 Anna McKenna, Delphine Hou and obviously Elliot Mainzer.
5 So I just want to thank the interagency collaboration and
6 without that we would not have been able to succeed this
7 year.

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

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

21 And I will just second Commission McAllister and
22 all the names that he mentioned internally, but I do want
23 to note maybe five or six names from EAD specifically. On
24 the main core areas that EAD has worked on this year
25 obviously include the forecasting improvements, building

1 decarbonization work, demand scenarios like supply-side
2 resource planning as well as reliability and progress on
3 the overarching data work.

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

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

21 Building decarb Mike Jaske, Aida Escala, Nick
22 Janusch and Ingrid Neumann. And under reliability again,
23 just want to say, David Erne, Al Alvarado (phonetic),
24 people who have worked on this issue, so we continue to
25 bring these pieces together.

1 On gas evolution and transitional issues as
2 Commissioner McAllister already pointed out Melissa Jones
3 thank you for your leadership on that aspect along with
4 Katie elder as well as the (Indiscernible.) team, including
5 Jennifer Campagna, Jason Orta, all the people that are
6 working behind the scenes.

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

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

24 And all the stakeholders, without you we wouldn't
25 do our job so thank you for taking the time. Obviously, we

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

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

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

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

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Just like the IEPR, yes.

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yes, like the IEPR. So I'll
22 stop there, but in closing again I wanted to just share a
23 couple of personal thoughts. The last two years has been
24 incredibly difficult for a number of our staff. It has
25 been a reckoning for the country from justice. From the

1 point of view of the impacts of climate, the differences we
2 have on things I would assume we should all agree on like
3 climate and COVID. We begin to see the differences more
4 often than the similarities that bind us, and it has been a
5 pressure cooker in the country and sometimes in the state.
6 But I feel safe in this community in CEC and this family of
7 people.

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

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

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those beautiful
23 and heartfelt comments and for all the heart you have
24 brought to the work, Vice Chair Gunda. I just couldn't be
25 more grateful. I know I speak for all of us when I say

1 that, just what a wonderful, wonderful addition in this new
2 role you've been and will be.

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

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

8 So last December I, and we all recognized the
9 Energy Commission staff, for their ability to quickly
10 adjust to work from home in response to the pandemic. And
11 to keep their focus on the job and help us get the job done
12 and be as productive and more productive as we have really
13 been, even with all the change and everything going on.
14 And I want to just build off of that and thank all of the
15 Energy Commission staff again for their resiliency and
16 commitment to public service and our mission as these
17 challenges continue.

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

22 And so, in terms of the Renewable Energy Division
23 some of their achievements this year include helping get
24 the Lithium Valley Commission up off the ground and
25 providing them with really invaluable administrative and

1 substantive support. Chief Counsel's Office was very
2 engaged in that as well, of course. Getting the CalSHAPE
3 guidelines and program off the ground and into
4 implementation. Obtaining Energy Commission and OAL
5 approval of updates to the RPS enforcement regulations.
6 And initiating the pre-rulemaking process for updates that
7 are coming to the Power Source Disclosure Program among
8 many other things.

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

17 In terms of the STEP Division citing,
18 transmission, environmental protection, we've really seen
19 the STEP Division have to rise to the occasion in this past
20 year. They've played a major role in our reliability-
21 related efforts including the summer reliability challenges
22 and needs, improving our situational awareness during
23 critical summer moments. And being available on call and
24 outside of work hours to deal with events and eventualities
25 that that would arise sometimes at inconvenient times, and

1 just letting us know about them in real time. Leading
2 efforts to identify opportunities from existing resources
3 to supply critical megawatts at net peak times.
4 Contributing to many of our critical reports and analyses,
5 including the SB 100 report, 60-day report and the 2021
6 draft IEPR. And moving very expeditiously to respond to
7 the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, including their
8 close coordination with Department of Water resources on
9 the State Power Augmentation project. And establishing an
10 expedited review for battery energy storage systems and for
11 amendments and alterations that help address these critical
12 summer needs.

13 The STEP Division has also had a major role to
14 play in the launch of really important planning
15 initiatives, including the SB 100 Resource Build process in
16 partnership with the Energy Assessments Division, the CPUC
17 and the CAISO. Helping lead three public workshops and
18 delivering a starting point scenario for the CAISO's 20-
19 year transmission outlook and providing critical support to
20 California's approach to offshore wind energy, including
21 coordination with multiple key state agencies and the
22 Federal Government. And implementation of key parts of the
23 2021 and 2022 State Budget. It's been a major initiative
24 and a lot of work and effort.

25 They've also supported the Lithium Valley effort

1 when it comes to permitting and having some really key and
2 important conversations with Imperial County about how to
3 coordinate very, very closely between the Energy Commission
4 and the County.

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

19 Some highlights that I wanted to call out include
20 their strong support and hard work in the RPS enforcement
21 rulemaking. Their work in supporting us in a revise and
22 legal analysis on some of the substantive, and policy and
23 legal issues that we had to look at coming out of that.
24 Providing support for Small Power Plant Exemption
25 proceedings for both staff and the Committees. And helping

1 with and playing a key role in both helping formulate and
2 implement the Governor's Emergency Proclamation. And
3 supporting the DACAG and Lithium Valley Commission. I
4 can't help them enough; it's really, really important.

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

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

23 And the Public Advisor, who due in part to some
24 of her great work this year, is now heading an office that
25 we have renamed and given a broader portfolio to. So now

1 it's the Office of the Public Advisor, Energy, Equity and
2 Tribal Affairs, PAO+. And her incredible work, support,
3 sensitivity and just knowledge of how to do and how to
4 support outreach and engagement, her commitment to ensuring
5 that the Energy Commission be a government body that is
6 accessible to the public and wherever they come from and
7 from whatever point of view, but that the public feel that
8 they can come here and engage in our processes is
9 critically important. She supported our rollout to remote
10 processes and helped us think through how to make remote
11 workshops and hearings work. And tirelessly supporting
12 each division and taking on new initiatives, including a
13 refresh of our internal and external equity and diversity
14 efforts.

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

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

23 Administrative Services Division, similarly, just
24 tremendous workload this year with the move to a new
25 building, with all of the budget and other work.

1 IEPR team, of course, and I think Andrew already
2 spoke to that. But I had the opportunity to go to many
3 workshops and, as always, they were very well done.

4 And I wanted to personally thank the Executive
5 Office and executive leadership Drew and Linda and the
6 entire executive leadership team for your hard work and
7 commitment to our mission and to our staff, and the IT
8 team.

9 And now last, I'll go to my office, Ollie
10 Awolowo, my Advisors Kourtney and Eli, John Hilliard the
11 Technical Advisor to Commissioners for citing matters, and
12 Mark Ennis (phonetic) and our offshore wind Fellow.

13 So last of all but not least in any way I thank
14 you, my colleagues. And I'm very proud of the work we've
15 done together, and I really appreciate and enjoy the
16 collaboration that we have with each other and with the
17 many agencies that we work with a number of you have
18 already called out. And I just really appreciate and enjoy
19 being part of this much greater effort and for the greater
20 good of California and the state and national and even
21 international leadership that we're able to show, so thank
22 you.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much,
24 Commissioner.

25 Let's turn now to Commissioner Monahan.

1 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I wanted to start by
2 acknowledging two people who are retiring from in the Fuels
3 and Transportation Division. There are two big sets of
4 shoes to fill.

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

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

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

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I don't know. Drew would

1 know more than me because he's been at CEC Fuels and
2 Transportation Division, I think it's just been like a
3 decade. So maybe Drew in his remarks can give more of a
4 longer history of John's contributions to the Agency.

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

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

25 So, with that I want to just reiterate some of

1 the messages I've heard from other Commissioners. Just
2 this recognition that this has been a time of enormous
3 change at the Energy Commission, to go from being in the
4 office every day, working on paper. When I first started
5 at the Energy Commission, "I was like we work on paper?" to
6 this point where we are able to work with perhaps even
7 greater efficiency from home.

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

20 So, I want to start with some thank-yous. I'm
21 going to stay somewhat high-level, so I'm sure I'm going to
22 forget many people. But I want to start with Drew who
23 just is amazing as a resource, I think, for all of us.
24 Drew's advice is always so grounded in his strategic
25 thinking, and I just really count on Drew to give me good

1 insights and to help me make good decisions based on good
2 information. So just really appreciate his competence and
3 his sense of humor, which is always enjoyable.

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

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

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

19 The PAO+, which I'm glad Noemi came up with that
20 moniker because it's easier to remember, just Noemi you
21 have been an amazing partner. And as we try to think
22 through what benefits mean in transportation and having
23 that integrate with what's happening, the project that
24 you're managing on the CEC-wide level I think has just been
25 so critical. And you are a joy to work with, so thank you.

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1 I also want to thank Dorothy who I intersect with
2 a fair amount in PAO+ and she's also been really wonderful
3 to work with.

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

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

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

1 welcome Jonah.

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

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

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

23 And on the forecast thanks to Matt, Clinton,
24 Jesse, Aniss, and Robert who have all been really, really
25 instrumental in helping I would just kind of say refresh

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1 the transportation analysis. And they've all been really
2 open to this idea that we're in a state of intense learning
3 and we need to continue to learn and adjust as we go.

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

11 All right so in the Fuels and Transportation
12 Division, of course, we've got to start with Hannon. I've
13 been calling him my unicorn, which I hope doesn't make him
14 develop a pointy head. But he works so hard, weekends,
15 nights. He's one actually, Hannon, you should take some
16 time off and maybe not work so many nights and weekends.
17 But Hannon has just been just a breath of fresh air and
18 just really such a dedicated, hard-working, visionary,
19 thoughtful, kind, competent manager and partner in all of
20 the work that we do. So, as we have been turning under
21 every rock to help build the case that we need in smart
22 strategic investments and zero-emission vehicle
23 infrastructure Hannon has just been an amazing thought
24 partner in that whole process. And I just deeply
25 appreciate all he brings, also including a sense of humor.

1 You'll hear that as a constant theme of mine, deeply
2 appreciate a sense of humor: humor, humility and
3 competence, that's the winning combination that that just
4 bring success, I think.

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

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

22 The SB 1000 report, which is on equity led by
23 Tiffany. And she just is amazing and keeps looking at,
24 trying to find different ways to evaluate equity which I
25 really appreciate.

1 On the Investment Plan, as you guys know, the
2 biggest-ever investment plan and it took a big, heavy lift
3 to get that to the finish line. Patrick Brecht, Tammy
4 Haas, Charles Smith and Michael Comiter have all been
5 really instrumental in that.

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

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

23 So, I want to acknowledge the crack team of
24 office managers: Charles Smith, Mark Wenzel and Elizabeth
25 John who just again, low drama, high performance, really

1 thoughtful, always pushing the edge and trying to do a
2 better job with their grants. That continuous improvement
3 is something I just deeply appreciate.

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

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

23 I want to thank my advisor Mona, who's been a new
24 addition to the office; so awesome, really just super-
25 competent, also helps me on the legal side. She's leading

1 our equity work, so she'll be interfacing very closely with
2 Noemi and just is such a nice, kind person and really
3 collaborative. So I really appreciate all that Mona does
4 for me and for the office.

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

18 I also want to thank Le-Quyen who I feel like is
19 an adjunct advisor to all of us, I don't know how she does
20 it. She's incredible, so competent. And whether it's like
21 putting together a brunch to welcome Vice Chair Gunda or
22 it's a complicated meeting or it's a complicated subject
23 around policy Le-Quyen does it all. And so, Chair, you are
24 lucky, but we are also. We thank you for sharing her with
25 all of us.

1 So, I would also like to just say that I feel so
2 lucky to work in an organization so collaborative as ours.
3 And every year I just have a deeper appreciation for my
4 fellow Commissioners and all that you bring. And I don't
5 think I've ever worked in an organization where the
6 leadership brought so little ego to the game. Where the
7 focus is, "How do we help meet California's critical energy
8 needs?" and not, "How do I further my own political or
9 personal career?" So, I just want to thank everybody for
10 kind of checking your ego at the door when it comes to
11 work.

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

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

18 I will recognize a number of folks, but I just
19 wanted to first share two thoughts and one is just building
20 off of that, which is I've been beekeeping for over 15
21 years now, Commissioner McAllister does as well. And I've
22 always been inspired by the concept of collective
23 intelligence, which is what honeybees exhibit and they make
24 good decisions as a group. I really feel like that's
25 actually how we're meant to be. And there's something

1 incredibly satisfying when you really feel that. And I
2 think in any marriage you have this sort of unconscious
3 allocation of responsibilities who's going to remember
4 what, who's going to handle what. And it's sort of true at
5 work too. And just you kind of know when it works and
6 there's just an incredibly complimentary set of skills and
7 talents and that all is with a shared purpose and a
8 collaborative spirit.

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

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

24 We need that and that's what's going to keep us
25 all in a position to be able to keep doing this important

1 work. There is nothing more important than your own health
2 and being connected to your loved ones, to your body, to
3 nature. Those things are what keep us going. And so
4 really that's my request to everybody is over the holidays
5 to really unplug and get some downtime and really savor
6 that and restore.

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

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

1 run and that's been spread far and wide.

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

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

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

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

23 Alana Sanchez, my International Advisor, thank
24 you for setting up all the terrific visits and meetings and
25 travel during my trip to the UK and Europe for offshore

1 wind, just tremendous and for the wonderful symposium we
2 did with Germany and California recently.

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

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

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

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

25 And then just to bring us together, I mean we'd

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

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

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

23 I wanted to especially call out Rob Cook who is
24 kind of behind the scenes of just keeping everything
25 running, in particular with our budget. Rob, I know you've

1 been working amazingly hard, and you and Noemi handling all
2 this influx of new money. And the move and so on, and I
3 just am very grateful for that.

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

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

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

23 And I'm really excited to be Lead, getting
24 together with Commissioner McAllister on ERDD and for all
25 the good we're going to do together.

1 So, I'll stop there, and just thank everybody
2 again. And we've taken almost two hours to do these thank-
3 yous, but it's time well-spent.

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

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

13 As I discussed with some of you earlier this week
14 with a couple exceptions, I'm not going to mention names
15 this year, instead I just want to thank the entire nearly
16 700 people in our organization that make it tick every day,
17 everybody. This includes staff, management, appointees
18 and, of course, the five of you, thank you all.

19 I want to just say a few things. This was the
20 year of settling in and 2020 was a shock for all of us.
21 And it required big adjustments in each of our lives. By
22 2021 a lot of us have gotten a rhythm and right now we're
23 mostly working at home. I'm going into the office it feels
24 like going into an empty football stadium. It's a space
25 designed for a lot of people and there's nobody there, so

1 hopefully that will get righted soon.

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

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

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

23 One, we're making possible what increasingly
24 seems like an inevitable revolution in the way we drive
25 cars.

1 We're raising the bar on energy efficiency ever
2 higher.

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

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

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

12 We're investing in research to find innovative
13 solutions.

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

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

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

25 And now for the exceptions I mentioned earlier. I

1 just want to take a moment to thank two people who report
2 directly to me and the Executive Office and who I work
3 closely with on a daily, sometimes hourly basis.

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

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

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

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Drew.

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

25 MS. GALLARDO: Hello everybody, this is Noemi,

1 the Public Advisor. I want to say I've never been compared
2 to a car before or any type of vehicle, but there is a
3 Lamborghini that has my last name (indiscernible) think of
4 it, Chair.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, well it's the electric
6 Lamborghini. (Laughter.)

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

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

24 And then I also want to thank real quick, the
25 Executive Office, Chief Counsel's Office, particularly Lisa

1 and Patricia.

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

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

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

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

23 And I want to give a reminder to our attendees to
24 please join us for the Hall of Fame on Friday. It's going
25 to be a wonderful event where we celebrate folks who are

1 working to make a clean energy future for all of us here in
2 California. So I put the link in the chat, please
3 register.

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

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: That would be great, thank
8 you.

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

16 Please use the raised-hand icon to indicate your
17 interest in making public comment. If you're on the phone
18 press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute.

19 After you are called on, please restate and spell
20 your name. If you are affiliated with an organization,
21 tribe, any other type of entity please let us know. And do
22 not use the speakerphone when talking, because we won't
23 hear you clearly.

24 I will look for hands now. All right, Chair, I
25 do not see any hands raised. We can continue.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Thank you, Noemi.
2 Let's turn now to Item 14, Chief Counsel's
3 Report.

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

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

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

25 And so thanks, thank you so much. And I hope

1 that everybody has a great end of the year, and that we are
2 all able to rest a little bit, so that we can energize and
3 be all have the gas -- not gas, but electric charge for
4 next year.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Linda.

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

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

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1 keeping pushing the mission forward.

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

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Chair? Chair, may I?

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Oh yeah, go ahead Vice Chair?

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

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

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay.

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

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Outstanding.

18 Okay, have a good holiday everyone. Thank you.

19 (The Business Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.)

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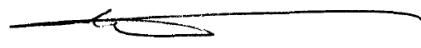
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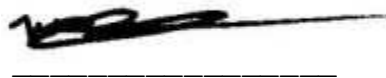
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