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Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	249102
Document Title:	Richard Michael Skaff Comments - Executive Director
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Richard Michael Skaff
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	3/13/2023 10:32:50 AM
Docketed Date:	3/13/2023

Comment Received From: Richard Michael Skaff
Submitted On: 3/13/2023
Docket Number: 16-OIR-06

Executive Director

Hello,

I'm writing to you to ask for your help in finding a way to distribute information about the CPUC Self-Generation Program. There needs to be a state-wide effort to educate electric utility ratepayers who are vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities about the SGIP residential battery program. The CPUC's Self-Generation program was created in part to provide funding for the purchase and permanent installation of two (2) residential batteries (like the Tesla Powerwall batteries).

I learned about that program in late 2019, when the three for-profit electric utilities in California first went to the CPUC to ask for permission to de-energize their grids so their aging grid equipment wouldn't cause wildfires.

In 2020, shortly after the CPUC Commissioners gave the three for-profit electric utilities the right to use "public safety power shutoff" events (PSPS events), those utilities started to turn off power to their grid during high danger weather conditions (high temperatures, high winds, and low humidity). The CPUC had given those electric utilities approval to use PSPS events without any real and effective mitigation measures that would protect vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities who depend on consistent electricity to operate life supporting medical and mobility equipment.

In early 2020, it was clear that the CPUC had no programs or funds available that were focused directly on the protection of those living in California's Tier 2 and Tier 3 wildfire zones, who were vulnerable seniors and/or persons with disabilities, and who were active members of their utility's Medical Baseline programs and needed consistent electricity to operate both life-supporting medical and mobility equipment. At that point, and after discussing my concerns with the CPUC's previous Executive Director, Alice Stebbins, she set aside \$350M in the SGIP program that was intended to be used by vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities for the purchase and installation of two (2) residential batteries.

Within a very short time after the funds became available and program was opened, the available funds were gone. And the recipients were mostly homeowners with wells that needed electricity to operate the well water pumps.

Most recently, the CPUC listened and has designated more than \$1B in funds for the SGIP program (see CPUC SGIP Program description below). This funding prioritizes those communities living in high fire-threat areas, communities that have experienced two or more utility Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) events, as well as low income and medically vulnerable customers (those needing consistent electricity to operate

medical and mobility equipment).

The reason I'm writing to you and requesting your help is that I don't believe that the intended recipients of those new SGIP program funds even know the funds are available or how to apply for them. I've discussed my concerns with CPUC staff, but haven't seen any action that would resolve this issue.

What, if anything, can you do to help educate the State's vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities about the present SGIP Program and the substantial funds that are now available to have residential batteries purchased and installed at no cost for them?

Here's the URL for the SGIP program: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/demand-side-management/self-generation-incentive-program/participating-in-self-generation-incentive-program-sgip>

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Richard Skaff, Executive Director

Designing Accessible Communities

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"Get in good trouble, necessary trouble,

and redeem the soul of America"

A statement made by civil rights

leader, John Lewis

"Fighting Hate

Teaching Tolerance

Seeking Justice"

The Southern Poverty Law Center

The CPUC's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) offers rebates for installing energy storage technology at both residential and non-residential facilities. These storage technologies include battery storage systems that can function during a power outage.

Depending on the battery and how much you are using it, batteries can provide power for several hours, or longer. Battery storage can be an important component of a more robust emergency preparedness plan in the event of a power outage.

In preparation for the next wildfire season, the CPUC has authorized funding of more than \$1 billion through 2024 for SGIP. This funding includes prioritization of communities living in high fire-threat areas, communities that have experienced two or more utility Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) events, as well as low income and medically vulnerable customers. The funds are also available for "critical facilities" that support community resilience in the event of a PSPS or wildfire.

The best way to get started in accessing SGIP is to reach out to an installer who can help navigate the application process. Use the "Find an Installer" Tool to help find an installer in your area. (Please note that the CPUC does not endorse or recommend any of these installers. The tool includes information collected through a voluntary survey.)

Additionally, the Golden State Financing Authority is offering a financial assistance product for SGIP. For more information, please visit: <http://gsfahome.org/programs/arp/overview.shtml> (Please note that the CPUC does not endorse or recommend any participating installers.)

Helpful Resources

SGIP Brochure for Residential Customers