

**DOCKETED**

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BUSINESS MEETING

BEFORE THE

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
 ) 23-BUSMTG-01  
*Business Meeting* )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

In-person at:  
 Warren-Alquist State Energy Building  
 1516 Ninth Street  
 Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room  
 Sacramento, California 95814  
 (Wheelchair Accessible)

*Remote Access Only via Zoom*

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

*Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an 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 public comment portion of the meeting and have three minutes or less to comment.*

Reported by:  
 Peter Petty

APPEARANCES (\*Present via Zoom)

Commissioners

David Hochschild, Chair  
Siva Gunda, Vice Chair  
Noemi Gallardo  
Andrew McAllister  
Patty Monahan

Staff Present:

Drew Bohan, Executive Director  
Linda Barrera, Chief Counsel  
Mona Badie, Public Advisor

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Guest Speakers:

Interested Parties:

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Megan Haines, Cuberg, Inc.	7

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a. Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following matter to which the CEC is a party:	
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MARCH 6, 2023

10:05 a.m.

3 (Start of Introductory Video.)

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

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

19 To increase access to the California Energy  
20 Commission's proceedings, this meeting is being held in-  
21 person and is also available for remote participation.

22 The public can participate in the business  
23 meeting consistent with the instructions for remote  
24 participation found in the notice for this meeting, and as  
25 set forth on the agenda posted to the Energy Commission's

5

1 website. 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, to  
5 indicate you would like to give a comment in-person please  
6 use the QR codes shown in the room and fill out the form.

7           For remote participants, please raise your hand  
8 by clicking on the "Raise Hand" icon at the bottom of your  
9 screen. If you are joining by phone press \*9 to raise your  
10 hand and \*6 to unmute.

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. After the Public Advisor  
19 calls on you to speak, spell your name and state your  
20 affiliation, if any.

21           Welcome to the California Energy Commission's  
22 business meeting. The meeting will now begin.

23           (End of Introductory Video.)

24           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Good morning and welcome,  
25 friends. I'm David Hochschild, Chair of the Energy

1 Commission. Today is Monday, March 6. I call this meeting  
2 me this meeting to order. Joining me are Vice Chair Gunda,  
3 Commissioner Gallardo, Commissioner McAllister and  
4 Commissioner Monahan. We do have a quorum. We'll begin  
5 with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chair Gunda.

6 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. So we will begin  
8 with Public Comment, Item 1.

9 MS. BADIE: Good morning and welcome. This is  
10 Mona Badie, the Energy Commission's Public Advisor. The  
11 Commission welcomes public comment at its business  
12 meetings. There'll be multiple opportunities for public  
13 comment today.

14 This initial public comment period is for any  
15 information on non-voting items on the agenda. If you want  
16 to comment on a voting item, we ask that you wait for the  
17 dedicated public comment period for that item to make your  
18 comment.

19 Now for the instructions on how to notify us, if  
20 you want to comment at this time. If you're in the room,  
21 please use the QR code posted in the back at the Public  
22 Advisor table. If you're on Zoom, please click the "raise  
23 hand" feature on your screen. And if you're joining by  
24 phone, press \*9 to raise your hand.

25 To ensure that we can hear from everyone and get



1 through the agenda, comments will be limited to two minutes  
2 or less per speaker, and one speaker per entity today. You  
3 will be called on when it is time for you to make your  
4 comment.

5 We also ask that speakers focus their remarks on  
6 comments. Q&A and other dialogue is available by  
7 contacting the Public Advisor's Office.

8 Okay. I'm not seeing anyone in the room that  
9 would like to make a comment, so I will transition to our  
10 Zoom list. And I'm not seeing any raised hands on Zoom.  
11 Back to you, Chair.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thanks. So at today's  
13 meeting we're going to be approving or considering for  
14 approval, over \$21 million of investments. And I want to  
15 just again reiterate how important these are both to our  
16 climate efforts and our state's economic recovery.

17 I really wanted to just reflect for a moment on  
18 an extraordinary week that we all shared with the Tribal En  
19 Banc last week. We were up in the North Coast, visiting  
20 all together I think about 10 tribes up there. And we  
21 approved the first ever Tribal Energy Sovereignty  
22 Resolution, and are moving forward with an incredibly  
23 exciting and bold \$500 million proposal, the GRIPs  
24 proposal, to do tribal energy micro grids around the state.  
25 The largest tribal energy proposal in the country.

1 I wanted to especially single out and thank our  
2 amazing Tribal Liaison, Katrina Leni-Konig for all her  
3 work. Mona Badie, our incredible Public Advisor. Linda  
4 Barrera, Drew Bohan, Kat Robinson, Elizabeth Huber and so  
5 many others from the staff, the Energy Commission, and the  
6 Public Utilities Commission. Because we were there, all 10  
7 Commissioners together, for this remarkable week.

8 And most of all I think on behalf of all of us, I  
9 wanted to thank the tribal leaders there for what I think  
10 is the incredibly inspiring work that's happening in the  
11 North Coast. The largest dam removal project in the world  
12 is underway, and the first of those four dams will get  
13 removed this summer. Condor have been restored to this  
14 region that has been without them for over a century. And  
15 you know a great example, I think of partnership with the  
16 state on these tribal energy micro grids. Tribes are  
17 typically the first to lose power and the last to get it  
18 restored, because of the remote nature of many of these  
19 communities. And the tribal micro grid we funded with the  
20 Blue Lake Rancheria has now had they're estimating about 30  
21 outages that that micro grid has kept the lights on over  
22 the last five years, since it was installed. And are just  
23 an incredible example of partnership.

24 So I just wanted to open it up to my colleagues  
25 for any reflections that you wanted to share before we move

1 on with the rest of the agenda.

2 Commissioner, go ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks, Chair.

4 Well, I've now been at the Commission almost four  
5 years, and I've been touched many times emotionally. My  
6 heart has been touched many times. But I feel like that  
7 last week was sort of -- kind of the longest sustained, and  
8 also cross agency, a sense of urgency, priority, and really  
9 this deep I would say multi-generational challenge that we  
10 all feel in terms of supporting tribal communities and  
11 recognizing that there have been historical injustices, so  
12 very profound.

13 And I think a lot of times you feel like you  
14 don't know what you can do in the face of such injustice.  
15 And this was a moment of moving forward. And I felt it  
16 across our agencies. I felt it with our tribal partners  
17 that some trust was built. And that is, I called it holy,  
18 and I really am not religious. So this is a rare thing for  
19 me to say that that was just a holy moment where you just  
20 felt like we can make progress on this one thing that's so  
21 important, providing power. And hearing some of the  
22 stories from the Yurok in particular about some communities  
23 where they built out distribution, and then still some  
24 communities that don't have access to electricity, don't  
25 have access to basic needs, and how we may be able to

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1 support that through a nested microgrid. There was just so  
2 much hope that we could make a difference in people's lives  
3 and a difference in intergovernmental relations.

4 So I just want to thank the team that was  
5 involved in this. It really was a lot of work. I know  
6 from the Public Advisor that it was a lot of work, and  
7 others, Katrina. But it was worth it. It paid off. And  
8 it really -- I wish the entire staff of the Energy  
9 Commission could have been there to be touched as we were.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Well said.

11 Vice Chair Gunda?

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, Chair, thank you.

13 I want to just reiterate the words that both of  
14 you mentioned, but I also want to start with a sense of  
15 gratitude and thank you to you, Chair. I think it's a  
16 vision that you and a few of the staff who were up in the  
17 North Coast last year had this vision. And to be able to  
18 pull together 10 Commissioners to one location, and  
19 oftentimes especially with our CPUC colleagues, we don't  
20 like to hang out that much. (Laughter.) And it took us  
21 all, as Commissioner Monahan mentioned, the sacredness of  
22 the event to be called together.

23 And I think it was -- rightly put, I think the  
24 general theme was, and the spirit was, to move forward with  
25 healing. And move forward with supporting the greater good

1 of the society and peoples of the world.

2 So one, just to add kind of a couple of pieces.

3 And I mentioned this at the En Banc, personally I grew up  
4 half the way around the world in India. And I grew up with  
5 the injustices of the land where I grew up and oftentimes  
6 was not a part of being raised with the depth of knowledge  
7 that the tribes here in California and the states went  
8 through. I think it's really easy to forget the  
9 devastation that the tribes felt in this country. It's  
10 easy to become numb to moving forward, because it feels so  
11 big and unsolvable and unfixable. And to have those  
12 moments where there is hope to correct the injustices of  
13 the past, and move forward with the glimmer of hope and  
14 light, was very profound for me to be there.

15 And I said this at the En Banc, and I'll just  
16 share this here with you all. Is where I come from we grew  
17 up with this idea that the mother, Mother is God and  
18 divine. So this is a prayer we recite at schools every  
19 morning like we do the Pledge here. You know, we say -- in  
20 Sanskrit we say: [Prayer recited in Sanskrit by Vice Chair  
21 Gunda]. It means, "Mother is God and divine. Father is  
22 God and divine. And the elders and teachers are God and  
23 divine."

24 And for us to have lost the ability to have  
25 reverence for the generations that came in front of us, for

1 the amount of work that they've done to create this world  
2 for us to live here, it's not only saddening, but it is  
3 arrogant of a lot of us. And I hope that moments like that  
4 bring us together to move forward as one people and  
5 recognize the importance of respecting what generations  
6 have contributed to this world. So it was a profound  
7 moment for me.

8 I am grateful that my daughter who's six years  
9 old now, going to be seven soon, and my four-year old son  
10 are living through a moment of history in California, and  
11 in the States that would allow them to be a part of a  
12 better world. So I felt blessed. It was an incredibly  
13 touching moment, profound, holy, auspicious. So I look  
14 forward to moving forward, not with just the words, but  
15 action, to continue that work and help the sovereignty of  
16 the tribes. So thank you.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Beautiful.

18 Commission McAllister?

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Well, I'm still a  
20 little bit on a high. I mean it's not -- as Commissioner  
21 Monahan said, as we'll hear from all of us it's not often  
22 that you have, I think a combination of the feeling that  
23 you are having a very deep and profound connection that is  
24 based on common goals and values. At the same time,  
25 acknowledging and laying out a path to correct these, you

13

1 know, centuries of injustices and insults, just myriad  
2 injustices that the tribes across the US and certainly here  
3 in California.

4           You know, I learned a fair amount about that the  
5 details of the history of California's policy toward native  
6 peoples. And there's just so much that we kind of have to  
7 atone for as a society. And I think we all really felt  
8 that deeply, pre of resentment and really, I think building  
9 the right kinds of emotional attachments across all of all  
10 the folks that were there. And across this kind of team  
11 that we're trying to build to really forge a common path  
12 together. So it touched me personally.

13           Just as a quick example, many of you know that I  
14 lived and worked in South America for many years. And you  
15 know native peoples obviously are an incredibly diverse  
16 group. It's hard to generalize, but the sort of gravitas  
17 and the rootedness that the tribes that -- you know, the  
18 native peoples, native communities that still are with us  
19 today. The amount of perseverance that they have built  
20 into their culture, their decision making, their respect  
21 for their ancestors and their elders. The way that those  
22 cultures are just constructed. The fact that they're here  
23 speaks volumes. The fact that they're still here speaks  
24 volumes about the resilience that is just built into the  
25 way that they see the world and that they interact with the

1 world and nature.

2           And, you know, I worked with a number of native  
3 peoples largely in Bolivia, but also in Southern Chile,  
4 with the Mapuce, in Bolivia with the Aymara, and a variety  
5 of Quechua speaking communities. And having sort of  
6 embedded in those places, far from the grid, we were  
7 talking 1990s off grid, I mean these were some self-  
8 sufficient folks, right? These are quinoa farmers, and  
9 llama herders, and just really austere environments that  
10 they were persisting in after not just the Spanish  
11 conquest, right, but the Inca conquest before that. I mean  
12 they've faced many, many, many challenges.

13           And I just felt that that strength of culture,  
14 that strength of character, that that culture engenders in  
15 its leadership and its people. And it was almost  
16 overwhelming at times to hear both the history, the  
17 challenges, but also the love that they still managed to  
18 preserve for one another, and for us. You know, we've  
19 really felt that. And so it really made me just -- I  
20 think, grounded all of us. It certainly grounded me in  
21 sort of a resolve, and an urgency resolve, to really do  
22 what I can to try to move forward the conversation.

23           I was particularly -- just also the other the  
24 other set of buttons it pushed for me was, you know, I  
25 worked with a lot of small co-ops in rural in rural South



1 America, in just small utility management, utility  
2 structures. And it's challenging to run a rural electric  
3 utility, and sort of the aspirations that the Yurok tribe  
4 has to sort of control their future. To sort of have an  
5 electric ecosystem that that reflects their self-  
6 determination, or that incorporates their self-  
7 determination, I think was incredibly inspiring.

8           And so just I think there's some practical things  
9 that we came away understanding that we need to sort of  
10 help them work through as well however it ends up. That --  
11 enabling them to really try to develop their vision in a  
12 way that makes sense is also just something I'm really  
13 excited about.

14           But it was a beautiful meeting. And thanks,  
15 Chair Hochschild for providing the vision for that, and to  
16 putting it together. Also Commissioner Douglas and Chair  
17 Randolph, you know, they all played their role. And many,  
18 many, many folks played their role at the Commissioner  
19 level as well through the years. But that seemed like a  
20 milestone really that we went through last week, and it's  
21 really, really gratifying.

22           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

23           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Well, for me as the  
24 newest Commissioner it was an incredible experience to have  
25 with the four of you, with staff, and our peer agency

1 partners and the federal folks as well. That's how my term  
2 as Commissioner is starting out. And I couldn't be so much  
3 more grateful, because that's exactly why I want to be a  
4 part of this, to be able to contribute to helping transform  
5 people's lives through the work we do on energy. And so  
6 that is so meaningful to me, and I even feel really jittery  
7 right now just thinking about that.

8           A few moments stood out for me that I want to  
9 point out. We got to hear a lot about the experiences of  
10 elders. That got brought up time and time again. These  
11 are people who I can't believe what a -- you know, what  
12 their life has been like. But they are living off the  
13 grid, some of them. Not by choice, not because it's a cool  
14 thing to do, but because they didn't have a choice. And  
15 they were going through some really harsh experiences with  
16 the extreme weather and had to depend on the rest of the  
17 tribe, and the tribe's trying to take care of them. And it  
18 meant so much to hear that personal experience, to then  
19 realize why the resolution that we drafted, and brought  
20 forth, and adopted during the En Banc was so important to  
21 them. Because it's going to enable them to have  
22 independence and more control over how they want to provide  
23 energy and power and prioritize people like their elders,  
24 in the way that they know they need it. And we even got a  
25 standing ovation for our resolution. A standing ovation

17

1 that was initiated by the tribal leaders standing up. And  
2 that just made me realize just how much it means to them.  
3 So the work we're doing can be transformational. We're  
4 working on this grant and that's the small piece that we're  
5 going to contribute, but they were so grateful for that.

6 And at -- towards the end we were in a meeting  
7 with the Yurok tribe. And they -- Michael Gerace, who's  
8 the Planning Director of the Yurok, said what a smart and  
9 caring Commission we were. And that will be something that  
10 I hold dear the entire time that I'm working as a  
11 Commissioner, is just remembering that we do need to be  
12 smart and also caring.

13 So I'm incredibly grateful for having that  
14 experience, again with all of you. And I think that'll  
15 also help us set the tone for the rest of the year, right?  
16 I'm glad this is happening early. And we can continue  
17 doing more of this incredible work. So thank you to all of  
18 you for contributing what you all do. Drew and Linda as  
19 well, it was a big moment, and Mona and Katrina. I'm  
20 really proud to be here in doing this. Thank you, Chair.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you for those beautiful  
22 comments.

23 I just want to say two things. First of all, I  
24 really want to thank you all, not just as Commissioners,  
25 but really as people for showing up with so much heart. I

1 think the ability to arrive in a situation with an open  
2 heart and to be able to be inspired, and to take in both  
3 the pain and the hope fully, which I really felt from  
4 everyone is an incredible gift.

5           And I was really moved on the second day, sitting  
6 next to a member of the Yurok tribe who said that he  
7 experienced some healing. I mean to even in the smallest  
8 of ways for us to be able to provide any opportunity that,  
9 with the history of what the tribes have been through, was  
10 amazing. And I just want to be clear, this is not the end.  
11 This is not a one and done thing. We will be back. We're  
12 going to do this at regular intervals. We've got to think  
13 through the right iteration that maybe every other year,  
14 but we'll work through that.

15           And what we're embarking on with this grid  
16 proposal, I think can change not just the state, but the  
17 country. It's a really exciting, really exciting  
18 opportunity to make people's lives better with the tribes  
19 and to forge something really important and powerful. And  
20 I am incredibly inspired. I know we all are so inspired by  
21 the perseverance you're referring to there, Commissioner  
22 McAllister. And this partnership, I really feel not just  
23 with us, but also with the Public Utilities Commission.  
24 They showed up in full and were there and present and  
25 wonderful. So it was just a very special day.

1 I wanted to just provide the opportunity, if  
2 Linda or Drew or Mona, you're all part of the leadership  
3 team here, is there any comments or reflections any of you  
4 wanted to offer?

5 MS. BARRERA: Well, I'm speechless, because it  
6 was a wonderful experience. And I would say that one of  
7 the things that I will always remember is that standing  
8 ovation. I didn't expect it. And drafting and working  
9 with our other attorney from the office, Jimmy Qaqundah.  
10 And I want to also thank him for all his work in supporting  
11 Katrina and are providing advice on tribal matters.

12 Just having the opportunity to be part of that  
13 process was wonderful. And I just look forward to action,  
14 which is what Chairman James said multiple times, is making  
15 sure that our programs are actually making a difference.  
16 We need to electrify all these communities who have been  
17 abandoned within tribal communities. So I'm just looking  
18 forward to rolling up my sleeves and helping to make  
19 action. So thank you.

20 COURT REPORTER: Sorry to interrupt. This is the  
21 Court Reporter, who was just speaking?

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Linda Barrera, our Chief  
23 Counsel.

24 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

25 MR. BOHAN: Thank you, Chair. Drew Bohan,

1 Executive Director. I just want to thank you for the  
2 vision. And all of you for are making this a priority,  
3 because we've all got way too many priorities and have to  
4 choose. And for the five of you to choose a couple of days  
5 for your five colleagues at the PUC to take a couple of  
6 days, speaks volumes. And I think that's what inspired the  
7 tribal members to feel like it was real. And I would just  
8 say that what Chairman James said towards the end which  
9 was, "Now let's get down to action," is what we're aiming  
10 to do.

11 MS. BADIE: This is Mona Badie, the Public  
12 Advisor. I want to second what Linda and Drew said. And  
13 also I did appreciate that the tribal leaders did point out  
14 that the way that we had set up the room how we had  
15 approached the meeting, that they really felt like they had  
16 a seat at the table. And that was really important to me.  
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, thank you.

19 There is one person in the back of the room I'd  
20 like to invite up, Katrina. So it is an enormous amount of  
21 work to pull off something like this as successfully as  
22 occurred. And I really want to recognize Mona as Public  
23 Advisor. And really at the heart of it, our amazing Tribal  
24 Liaison, Katrina Leni-Konig. We've been working on this  
25 for over a year. You put your heart and soul into this, so

21

1 let's just begin with a big round of applause for Katrina.  
2 Thank you. (Applause.) I welcome any inner reflections  
3 you'd like to offer.

4 MS. LENI=KONIG: I will be sharing in just a bit,  
5 some photos from the event and really kind of diving into  
6 some of the work. But I just want to acknowledge and thank  
7 all of our Commissioners' leadership. For being there,  
8 committing, sending staff up there. We had over 50 people  
9 from both the CPUC and the CEC traveling with us, so it was  
10 an incredible showing, I think, from the state. And  
11 everybody, I think put their all into this. And you can  
12 just hear it, just by the words. I was going to share  
13 this. I said it was hope, heart, love, spirit, sacred,  
14 healing. These were some of the words that were most heard  
15 throughout that meeting, and that's not often that you host  
16 a state meeting where those are the words that show up the  
17 most. I will just say this is truly heart work, as in the  
18 words of Commissioner Gallardo. So thank you all.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much.

20 All right, with that we'll turn now to Item 3,  
21 Consent Calendar. Are there any public comments on Item 3?

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you. This is Mona Badie, the  
23 Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment  
24 on Item 3. If you are in the room you can visit the Public  
25 Advisor table and use a QR code to notify us you'd like to

1 make a comment. If you're on Zoom, please use the "raise  
2 hand feature" on your screen. And if you're joining by  
3 phone, please press \*9 to raise your hand.

4 To ensure we hear from everyone and get through  
5 the agenda, comments are being limited to two minutes or  
6 less per speaker and one speaker per entity today. Please  
7 wait for me to call on you to make your comment. We ask  
8 that speakers focus their remarks on comments. Q&A and  
9 other dialogue is available by contacting the Public  
10 Advisors Office.

11 Okay, we don't have anyone in the queue in the  
12 room. Now checking Zoom, we don't have any raised hands.  
13 Back to you, Chair.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, unless there's  
15 Commissioner discussion, Commissioner McAllister, would you  
16 be willing to move item 3?

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Move Item 3.

18 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo, would  
19 be willing to second?

20 MS. BARRERA: Chair, if I may, just to interrupt?

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yes.

22 MS. BARRERA: Just to clarify that we're not --  
23 you're not considering Item 3e on the agenda.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: 3(e), correct.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So I'll move Item 3,

23



1 except for e.

2 MS. BARRERA: Thank you.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, thank you for that  
4 clarification.

5 Is there a second from Commissioner Gallardo?

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

7 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor say aye.  
8 Commissioner McAllister.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

10 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

12 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan.

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item  
17 3 passes unanimously.

18 We'll turn now to Item 4, the Tribal En Banc and  
19 Engagement. Welcome back, Katrina Leni-Konig.

20 MS. LENI-KONIG: Thank you, everyone. I just  
21 want to -- so Katrina Leni-Konig, Deputy Public Advisor and  
22 Tribal Liaison. I'm excited to share this, some photos of  
23 the event that you just heard our Commission's  
24 Commissioners comment on. In the upper right-hand corner  
25 of the slide you'll see a photo that was sent to me from

24

1 one of the tribal members that was just showing the  
2 conditions of the roads that they were traveling to come to  
3 visit us. So I just want to share this was not an easy  
4 time. It wasn't easy for all of us to get there. Some of  
5 us got stuck along the road and found haven in some of the  
6 communities up north. And so just acknowledging the  
7 resilience in all of us, and the perseverance in getting us  
8 to this event. Next slide, please.

9           So we had sort of a week-long event. Getting  
10 there on -- many of us were there for the March 1st event.  
11 We attended the SAFE Symposium. It was held by the Karuk  
12 tribe, and the Blue Lake Rancheria tribe at Blue Lake  
13 Rancheria. That was our first day and we really came into  
14 join this meeting, and I'll share a bit about that. On  
15 March 2nd we hosted our CEC and CPUC Tribal En Banc  
16 meeting. And on Friday, March 3rd, we joined the Humboldt  
17 Bay Boat Tour on offshore wind, and also attended a Klamath  
18 River gathering. Next slide.

19           So the SAFE Symposium is Smoke, Air, Fire and  
20 Energy. We joined a roundtable session. So some of our  
21 leaders came together and staff came together to host these  
22 roundtable sessions. We had dialogues on air, broadband  
23 energy and offshore wind. During those roundtable  
24 discussions we heard a lot of comments. Just a lot of  
25 feedback, a lot of wisdom shared with us around the local

1 knowledge, the awareness of the challenges that they face  
2 around clean energy, around smoke, fire and air as well.  
3 But also the importance of each of those elements in tribal  
4 communities for generations over time. So smoke, air,  
5 fire, and energy are all considered sacred in many ways,  
6 and that if we apply them in good ways and we steward the  
7 lands through good fire to the lands through stewardship of  
8 our energy systems, that we can also return more into  
9 balance. Next slide, please.

10 This is a photo of the Blue Lake Rancheria tribe.  
11 They put up signs. They welcomed us. They just redid  
12 their hotel and casino, and had a lot of really -- just  
13 really welcomed us into this space, and did a lot for the  
14 event to be incredible there. So I think a lot of us  
15 really enjoyed that and their hospitality. So I just want  
16 to acknowledge Blue Lake Rancheria tribe for making us feel  
17 at home.

18 I also, on the right you'll see a picture of  
19 Wahleah Johns, she's the Director of the Office of Energy,  
20 Indian Energy, and she was there to join us. So we had  
21 many of our federal partners as well at the event. Martha  
22 Guzman, she's an Administrator of Region 9 EPA, and she was  
23 also there to attend. So we met with our federal  
24 partners. We met with our state leaders, and also the  
25 tribes there at the events, so it was great. Next slide.

1           So this -- okay, I'm missing a photo there, but  
2 maybe it's a little bit out of order. So this is a photo  
3 of the En Banc meeting. Many of you just heard about it.  
4 But essentially we had a gathering of state leaders, tribal  
5 leaders, so all of the CPUC Commissioners, all of the CEC  
6 Commissioners, and we also had tribal leaders sat in a  
7 roundtable at the California Native American Forum in  
8 Humboldt County. Public Advisor Mona Badie mentioned how  
9 the space was really set up in a way that was conducive,  
10 that everyone was on bench together. And what En Banc  
11 means is essentially all of the decision makers necessary  
12 are at the table on the bench together. So I think it's  
13 really powerful that we had our tribal leaders there on  
14 bench with us at the En Banc meeting.

15           Here's a photo on the right. You'll see Vice  
16 Chairman from Chemehuevi, who traveled all the way from the  
17 Colorado River to join us up north. We also have there a  
18 photo of Chairman Joe James of the Yurok tribe speaking and  
19 sharing, and you heard a lot of his words shared as well.  
20 I think it was very powerful to hear their voices. I just  
21 also want to acknowledge that. Let's go to next slide,  
22 please. See if the photo pops.

23           Okay. So this is the space. That's a photo of  
24 me there. That's the only one that I have of a speaker, but  
25 I'll just -- I'll revel in that moment. But you can kind

1 of see the light on the floor in the middle. And so one of  
2 the presenters from Cal Poly Humboldt mentioned that the  
3 space was designed in a way that it was like the home of  
4 the traditional people, and in the middle, there's a fire.  
5 And so there's a giant skylight that kind of beams down  
6 into the center of the room, so we were all kind of  
7 gathered around this fire. And I really think it really  
8 set the tone for the event. Next slide, please.

9           Okay, we missed the one of all the tribal leaders  
10 and the Commissioners together, but we'll go to the next  
11 slide. So we -- on Friday we joined the Humboldt Bay tour,  
12 boat tour. You can see Commissioner Monahan walking along  
13 the docks to get on board. We had folks from the Humboldt  
14 Bay Harbor District. We had educators from Cal Poly  
15 Humboldt there. We also had many tribal representatives  
16 and leaders join us as well. It was really a community  
17 event. And they showed us where the harbor will be  
18 developed for offshore wind. They took us out along -- out  
19 towards the sea where we got a little bit rocked.

20           But it was just a beautiful day. And I think  
21 what we all took away from that is that this community is  
22 really coming together around developing something that  
23 works for them. And they're facing and opening and  
24 welcoming to all of the problems, challenges, concerns.  
25 And addressing them in this kind of open door, open

1 community space where they can all talk about this together  
2 and find solutions that work for all of them. Next slide.

3 This is another photo. This is we were on the  
4 "Coral Sea." It's Cal Poly Humboldt's research boat, so  
5 this is just another photo of us gathering there. Next  
6 slide.

7 After our Humboldt Bay tour we drove up to  
8 Klamath and visited with the Yurok tribe. It was a really  
9 incredible day, because they are also commemorating the  
10 Klamath Dam removal, and at the same time celebrating  
11 sovereignty. So they wanted this to be a celebration of  
12 sovereignty and coming out of the En Banc meeting, where we  
13 were able to celebrate the adoption of the Tribal Energy  
14 Sovereignty Resolution together where we received the  
15 status standing ovation from the crowd. And so it was just  
16 a really good time.

17 At this time that they were sharing -- passing  
18 out necklaces to all of our leaders, we also got notice  
19 that we received the thumbs up from the DOE to pursue our  
20 concept with the GRIP applications. So the timing of that  
21 event was incredible to be there in that meeting with the  
22 Yurok tribe, and to hear from the DOE that they said yes,  
23 go forward to develop this full application, was really  
24 beautiful. Next slide, please.

25 Here are some photos of the canoe tour. So the

1 canoe is sacred to the Yurok people. We were out on the  
2 Klamath River. This is also the river that will undergo  
3 the largest dam removal in the country. And we have some  
4 photos of our Chair. We have photos of others kind of  
5 boating. Our boat went in circles over and over again,  
6 others were more successful and were able to boat up river.  
7 Next slide. Just a few more photos.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: By the way, if that canoe had  
9 flipped it would have been a huge hit to energy policy in  
10 California. (Laughter.)

11 MS. LENI-KONIG: So this is some more of the  
12 photos here. And just to share that the canoe -- they do  
13 these boat tours up north and it's part of their economic  
14 development to have these eco-tourism up north. So if  
15 you're interested, you can visit Yurok and do these boat  
16 tours. Next slide, please. Thank you.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, so much. It's  
18 wonderful to see those photos. And just even the  
19 construction of the canoe itself is an amazing process.  
20 They get, you know, Redwood and traditionally would  
21 actually burn out the middle, and it takes over a year or  
22 two to produce a canoe like that. It was amazing to be  
23 able to see that. So just any other reflections?

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, go ahead please, Vice

1 Chair.

2 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: So again, Katrina, thank you  
3 so much. I want to take this moment to say thank you.  
4 Thank you for doing that for all of us, to help us be there  
5 in that blessed moment. So thank you.

6 I wanted to first acknowledge that the canoe was  
7 beautiful, and I got to experience Commissioner Monahan's  
8 shepherding of a canoe in circles. (Laughter.)

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I knew that coming.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: We had our Transportation  
11 Commissioner really kind of own and show us how a canoe can  
12 spin around. But it was a great moment of fun.

13 So I just wanted to call to pieces that I thought  
14 was extremely important and calling out the staff to think  
15 through this for SP 100. Moving forward, I think, you  
16 know, we have the tribal consultation on the SB 100 forum.  
17 But to the team who's working on it I think we should  
18 really include a chapter on energy sovereignty as it  
19 pertains to SB 100 goals. So just kind of calling that  
20 out.

21 Second, I think there is -- it's oftentimes we  
22 talk about kind of the energy planning from purely a cost  
23 effectiveness. And thanks to our office, Erik Lyon who  
24 kind of talked about it this morning about so much of  
25 energy planning, is it cost effective? This is not about

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1 cost effectiveness. This is about much more much more than  
2 that. Really trying to understand the collective non-  
3 energy benefits to the region, the economic development.  
4 And I think it's an issue much broader than purely dollars  
5 and cents.

6           So it's important to think about how to include  
7 the spirit of energy sovereignty within that, but also the  
8 micro grid planning. I think oftentimes micro grids are,  
9 "Oh, it's too costly to do so." But one of the things we  
10 heard from the Schatz Center was the lack of distribution  
11 lines and how much money it takes to put the necessary  
12 infrastructure to bring power to that location. I think  
13 it's really important for us to think about a framework for  
14 what are the attributes we are going to use to think about  
15 micro grid deployment. I think it cuts into the grid  
16 proposal. And how it cuts into the setup money, the  
17 billion dollars that we're investing, or the reliability  
18 money, DEBA and such. So I just want to call out that  
19 those are real opportunities for us to think about micro  
20 grids as not just the resiliency tool, but an energy  
21 sovereignty, and broadly energy planning too.

22           And then think about how do we include that in  
23 the SB 100 as a core chapter. So thank you.

24           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: I will just say in  
25 Commissioner Monahan's defense she may have been circling,

1 but it was a zero emission vehicle. No additional  
2 pollution.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: That is true.

4 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I want to say that it was  
5 really hard to paddle that canoe. And I was crying with  
6 laughter.

7 So I just want to build off something that Vice  
8 Chair Gunda said about valuing. We're so used to a cost  
9 benefit analysis. And you know, what the Chair said about  
10 the micro grid has been -- at Blue Lake Rancheria had been  
11 in operation 30 times because they had so many power  
12 outages. And it provided critical services.

13 In one outage they took in people who had who  
14 needed lifesaving equipment and they're credited with  
15 saving four lives. How do you value that? They're  
16 providing -- you know, when the power goes down, you can't  
17 get -- everybody's always worried about charging your EV.  
18 Well, you can't get gas or diesel either. So they're  
19 providing gas and diesel, so people can get out in the  
20 event of a fire. Again, it's a lifesaving. They're  
21 providing a micro grid at the airport for economic  
22 development and for people to see their families. So this  
23 idea, like how do you value that? And when people don't  
24 even have access to basic needs, that should just be a  
25 human right, not a cost benefit analysis.

1           So I think there's just so much about thinking  
2 more creatively about how we do our ledgers that is an  
3 opportunity under SB 100. And actually, more broadly.

4           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. Yes?

5           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, I totally agree  
6 with all that, and just adding a little bit of flavor. You  
7 know, rural, it's -- so there are lots of lots of  
8 intersections here, right? And I think that the different  
9 economics of rural versus urban, and just various business  
10 models in terms of public ownership, you know, municipal,  
11 irrigation district and investor. The investor owned  
12 utility model doesn't really -- it's not that great for  
13 areas like that.

14           And the tribes, you know, they built a line,  
15 handed it over to the local investor owned utility and that  
16 was a big sunk cost for them. But it really didn't sort of  
17 improve the responsiveness of that big utility. They're  
18 really the tail that gets wagged. And so self-  
19 determination just takes on a whole different meaning in  
20 that context.

21           And I think there are models, you know, that do  
22 give the localities communities more ownership literally  
23 and figuratively, but certainly literally in this case,  
24 essentially control over their energy sovereignty. And so  
25 there's just some pragmatic things we can do to help them

1 suss out what the best outcome is.

2           And I'm not prejudging what that outcome might  
3 be, but the economics are just very different. You know,  
4 just going out and dropping service connections when you  
5 have low density and not a lot of energy consumption. I  
6 mean, the co-ops across the rural US, they had massive  
7 programs to increase load. I mean, they have stores in  
8 every town, in the whole midsection of the US, that their  
9 purpose was to sell high-consuming electric appliances in  
10 order to get the cash flow they needed to justify all these  
11 lines that they were stringing up over the 20s and 30s and  
12 40s. The last century, they needed consumption. And you  
13 know, the emphasis was on productive uses, you know, ag  
14 loads and things like that. But there -- the history there  
15 is really instructive I think for how you can -- the  
16 limitations, and also the opportunities for rural areas and  
17 how electric service looks there. And it's pretty  
18 different than urban areas. And there are a lot of skills  
19 that are different and are needed in that case.

20           And it's great to have Humboldt or Cal Poly  
21 Humboldt. They're going to help them take a critical eye  
22 at all the folks that want to work with the tribes.  
23 Because I think that's another issue is sorting out sort of  
24 who's on their side. And I think we can help them with  
25 that.

1           So I'm just really interested, just really,  
2 really excited to dig in and do really grounded work with  
3 them.

4           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: This is Commissioner  
5 Gallardo. So Katrina you did a fantastic job, of course,  
6 with the planning of the experience at the En Banc. But  
7 also just with your presentation here and seeing those  
8 photos, you know, brought back all the memories.

9           And one of the things that stood out to me there  
10 was the regional engagement, which is something we  
11 intentionally started during the 2022 Integrated Energy  
12 Policy Report that Vice Chair Gunda led. And I think it  
13 was just a wonderful experience to do that during the IEPR  
14 process to get to know more of the community, more of the  
15 landscape, more of the geography, just the whole thing.  
16 And I really appreciated that here for our En Banc.

17           And also I got to know a little bit more of the  
18 community because of the adventure I had in arriving to the  
19 venue. So I did get stuck, because the roads got closed on  
20 the road I was going on. And I wanted to give a shout out  
21 to first the little town of Willow Creek that provided me  
22 safe haven and refuge when I was terrified for a few  
23 moments there not knowing how to drive in snow, and just  
24 being really cold, and not sure if anyone knew where I was.

25           And then also a big thank you to my Advisor,

1 Andrea. She was reaching out to me and connected me to  
2 folks who were also stuck in Willow Creek. So Elizabeth  
3 Huber and her team took me in and we shared a room and made  
4 it a fun moment. But it was also at the same time, you  
5 know, terrifying. Elizabeth, thank you for taking me in.  
6 I really appreciate that. And I'm glad we got a chance to  
7 have some quality time. (Laughter.) We needed it, right?

8           And then I just also on the SAFE Symposium I did  
9 have the privilege of being a part of that. It was  
10 wonderful. I got to join Commissioner Shiroma in speaking  
11 about resiliency and various opportunities we have. And  
12 something that stood out there was -- the key takeaway, I  
13 guess I should say I received from the people we got to  
14 talk to, was about their desire to have more energy  
15 expertise that's local, and more customized support. So we  
16 did learn about this from other communities as well during  
17 the '22 IEPR, that that was what they wanted. That came  
18 from the Karuk tribe in particular. And so it just made me  
19 think again about the regional hubs that we want to set up  
20 to provide that type of technical assistance, capacity  
21 building, grant assistance, whatever you want to call it,  
22 but that really comprehensive intentional support that  
23 communities and tribes need. Especially those that are  
24 remote and may not have all that expertise at that local  
25 level.

1           So they do have the benefit of leaders like Jana  
2 Ganion who is an expert, but she can't do it all. So I  
3 feel like that's an area where we can come together to  
4 contribute maybe pulling together some of the monies that  
5 we have in our various programs. And having that be a  
6 bucket that we can pull from maybe other programs that  
7 don't have that. So I wanted to emphasize that.

8           And then also in the En Banc, Vice Chair Brian  
9 McDonald from the Chemehuevi also asked us if we could do  
10 an En Banc in the Southern region, you know where he's at.  
11 And we also have an opportunity with Lithium Valley to do  
12 something similar. So I wanted to put it out there, on the  
13 record, that I'm really committed to doing something like  
14 that.

15           And then just finally two things that were  
16 brought up. Vice Chair Gunda, I really appreciate you  
17 bringing up SB 100 and how we can and integrate more of the  
18 tribal focus there. And I'm thinking maybe on the 2023  
19 IEPR, perhaps there could be a section where we talk about  
20 equity and environmental justice again, and tribes in  
21 particular.

22           And then finally, you know, we were talking about  
23 saving lives and how critical that is and how do you value  
24 that. But we've also been told from communities and  
25 organizations and other leaders, like from our

1 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group about not an  
2 energy benefit. This is what they mean, right? There's  
3 just so much value that can be brought, and they're looking  
4 to us to see if we can figure out what does that look like?  
5 How can we quantify it, so that it makes a difference in  
6 the policies and programs that we're setting up and that  
7 affects them. So I wanted to bring that up also as  
8 something that we could work on. Thank you.

9 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister?

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I just would sort of  
11 second the analogous excitement about involving tribes  
12 figuring out a way to sort of help them participate  
13 organically and integrally into the building decarb work  
14 that we're going to do, right? So that's another entree  
15 into that into that -- into certainly lots of non-energy  
16 benefits. And just there's doing projects and communities  
17 that have relatively difficult to reach. That's just part  
18 of the net we have to crack, so we're going to do our best  
19 to do that.

20 I guess I was kind of surprised, and in  
21 retrospect maybe I shouldn't have been, but just the world  
22 leading. You know, we're in California, and we kind of  
23 forget sometimes how relevant California is for the rest of  
24 the world. And like, okay, we're doing our thing. And  
25 we're nose to the grindstone trying to get stuff done, but

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1 that what we do really does resonate across the nation and  
2 the globe. And that group of -- relatively small group of  
3 people of the tribes is leading globally, these issues.  
4 You know, they really just -- their success at the dam  
5 removal, for example. And just the micro grid, and just  
6 engaging and having success for their people is an  
7 inspiration to native peoples across the globe.

8           And I was just amazed at how the Blue Lake  
9 Rancheria, for example, sends Jan all over the place to  
10 sort of be the acolyte for a lot of these issues. And  
11 they're investing in her going out into the world and  
12 telling their story. And so I hadn't really appreciated  
13 the extent to which they do that. And I think I came away  
14 really appreciating their investment because they're really  
15 invested. They're not just sort of trying to do their own  
16 thing for their own people. They're actually really  
17 getting out there trying to move the needle, traveling  
18 globally, and stimulating these same conversations. And  
19 giving hope to I think native peoples across the globe,  
20 which is just incredible. Just really inspiring.

21           I really want a second of those comments. And  
22 one of the things that the tribes are doing there is this  
23 vision of being the first carbon negative region in the  
24 world, which I think is really inspiring and bold and  
25 pathbreaking.

1           Just before we close I wanted to just -- a couple  
2 of other remarks. One is the very significance of that  
3 community is that Humboldt State has transitioned to Cal  
4 Poly Humboldt. Governor Newsom was instrumental in that,  
5 and I think delivered \$430 million to help support that  
6 vision. So I think that's a game changer for the region.  
7 And I congratulate all of the folks who have been a part of  
8 that.

9           And it really helped produce the next generation  
10 of talent to help work on industries like offshore wind.  
11 And I just especially wanted to thank Elizabeth Huber for  
12 coming, and for bringing her offshore wind team. They  
13 peeled off and did some separate meetings while we're  
14 there, then we participated together in this tour of the  
15 harbor, saw where the layup and assembly would be for  
16 offshore wind, and some of the logistics. And I think  
17 there's a lot of excitement and a lot of, you know, still  
18 curiosity and questions. We did have some tribal  
19 engagement on that and went through a whole bunch of the  
20 questions. But it was really, really terrific to have the  
21 Energy Commission team working offshore wind there.

22           So thank you to everyone. Yes, Katrina  
23 (indiscernible).

24           MS. LENI- KONIG: Thank you, Chair. I just  
25 wanted to acknowledge that this was one of our first public

1 meetings where we brought tribal leaders into one of our  
2 public meetings settings. I have the honor to work as  
3 Tribal Liaison, and to be meeting with tribes throughout  
4 the state of California. And to hearing directly from them  
5 about the initiatives that they're undertaking, the  
6 leadership that they're -- that Commissioner McAllister  
7 described so well. And it was just an honor to bring them  
8 into this space, and to have that opportunity to have  
9 others that are, you know, interested in Energy Commission  
10 work, to hear from our tribal leaders in that setting.

11           And I'll just say that also our tribal energy --  
12 our commitment, our resolution committing to support tribal  
13 energy sovereignty was -- it was a moment in time, and they  
14 said the standing ovation, etc. But it's a game changer, I  
15 think for the tribes. And where Councilmember Ramos  
16 mentioned he felt like it was generous. And to me that  
17 sort of has like both a positive and sort of a sadness to  
18 it, that it would feel generous. I think it's something  
19 that's the right thing to do. And I just really commend  
20 our Commission for taking the leadership in that space and  
21 hope that it sort of sets a new path forward for what we  
22 can do together with tribes in California and throughout  
23 the country. So thank you.

24           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, thank you, Katrina.  
25 Again, amazing work. And I think one of the greatest gifts  
26 in life is the opportunity to be a part of a team where you

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1 know what you're producing as a team is far greater than  
2 what anyone could do individually. And that's really what  
3 I felt with the Energy Commission showing up with our  
4 expertise on the grants and the resolution and all the  
5 engagement on offshore wind. And to be able to go in  
6 humility there and engage with the tribes and learn and be  
7 inspired from them. And partnering with them was an  
8 amazing week. And really one of the highlights of my  
9 Energy Commission career for sure. So thank you again,  
10 Katrina.

11 With that, let's turn to Item 5, Reappointments  
12 of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group. I welcome  
13 back Mona Badie.

14 MS. BADIE: Good morning, my name is Mona Badie.  
15 I'm the Public Advisor of the California Energy Commission.  
16 Today I am pleased to recommend for your approval five  
17 reappointments to the California Energy Commission and  
18 California Public Utilities Commission, Disadvantaged  
19 Communities Advisory Group also known as DACAG. Next  
20 slide.

21 The DACAG was established pursuant to statute by  
22 CEC and CPUC and advises our agencies in designing and  
23 improving policies and programs to be more effective on  
24 behalf of disadvantaged communities in the achievement of  
25 our clean energy and pollution reduction goals.

1           The DACAG has also helped both agencies advance  
2 state equity and environmental justice goals. Next slide.

3           The DACAG has 11 seats. On this slide you'll see  
4 our current DACAG members. To serve on the DACAG,  
5 candidates must be from or represent a disadvantaged  
6 community in California. We also seek out candidates with  
7 different backgrounds, expertise, and geographic locations.

8           Five current members of the DACAG have terms  
9 ending on the 31st of this month. All five are eligible  
10 and seek reappointment for terms starting April 1, 2023.

11           Reappointments need to be approved by both the  
12 CEC and the CPUC. These same proposed reappointments are  
13 scheduled to go before the CPUC later this month. Next  
14 slide.

15           I will briefly go over the five members proposed  
16 for reappointment.

17           First, we have Sahara Huazano based in Indio,  
18 California. Sahara currently serves as the Project Manager  
19 of Alianza Coachella Valley, a sustainability organization  
20 which focuses on pollution, infrastructure, health care,  
21 and youth outreach.

22           Sahara has been on the DACAG since 2022 when she  
23 was appointed to fill a vacated seat with a term ending at  
24 the end of this month.

25           Next we have Román Partida-López based in San

1 Diego. Roman serves as the Transportation Equity Counsel -  
2 - excuse me, Transportation Equity Legal Counsel at the  
3 Greenlining Institute, which is an organization working  
4 towards a future where communities of color can build  
5 wealth, live in healthy places filled with economic  
6 opportunity, and are ready to meet the challenges posed by  
7 climate change.

8 Román has been on the DACAG since 2021 and  
9 currently serves as the DACAG Chair. In 2022, he served as  
10 a DACAG expert on transportation electrification.

11 We also have Stephanie Chen. Stephanie is based  
12 in San Rafael. She currently serves as the Director of  
13 Legislative Affairs at Marin Clean Energy, California's  
14 first community choice energy provider to offer renewable  
15 power to reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

16 Stephanie has been on the DACAG since 2019. And  
17 in 2022 she was -- she served as the DACAG expert on EPIC,  
18 building decarb, and electrification, and affordability.  
19 Next slide.

20 Our remaining two proposed appointees: Elena  
21 Krieger, based in Oakland, California. She currently  
22 serves as the Director of Research at PSE Healthy Energy, a  
23 multidisciplinary, nonprofit research institute that  
24 studies the way energy production and use impact public  
25 health, climate, and the environment.

1           Elena has been on the DACAG since 2021. And in  
2 2022, she served as a DACAG expert on the IEPR,  
3 reliability, building decarb and electrification, gas  
4 transition, and distributed energy resources.

5           And finally we have Curtis Silvers based in  
6 Pasadena. Curtis currently serves as the Executive Vice  
7 President at Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, a grassroots  
8 organization with a vision of improving quality of life and  
9 meeting the unmet needs of low-income, underserved, under-  
10 represented and disenfranchised individuals in South L.A.

11           He has been on the DACAG since 2021, and  
12 currently serves as the DACAG expert on workforce training  
13 and development, EPIC, and community engagement. Next  
14 slide.

15           Based on the approval of DACAG Lead Commissioners  
16 Gallardo and Monahan from the CEC, and Commissioners Houck  
17 and Douglas from the CPUC, I am requesting the Commission  
18 vote to reappoint Sahara Huazano, Román Partida-López,  
19 Stephanie Chen, Elena Krieger, and Curtis Silvers to the  
20 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group for a two-year  
21 term starting April 1, 2023.

22           This concludes my presentation. I'm available  
23 for any questions.

24           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

25           We'll go to public comment on Item 5. Got to run

1 back over there.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you. This is Mona Badie, again  
3 the Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public  
4 comment on Item 5. If you are in the room we ask that you  
5 use the QR code or visit the Public Advisor table to notify  
6 if you wish to comment. If you're on Zoom, please click  
7 the "raise hand" feature on your screen. And if you're  
8 joining by phone, press \*9 to raise your hand.

9 We are asking for comments to be limited to two  
10 minutes or less today, and one speaker per entity. And  
11 also that speakers focus their remarks on comments and save  
12 Q&A and other dialogue to be facilitated through the Public  
13 Advisor's Office.

14 And now I will check our in-room queue. Not  
15 seeing anyone there I will transition to Zoom. Also not  
16 seeing any hands on Zoom. So back to you, Chair.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, let's go to Commissioner  
18 discussion starting with Commissioner Gallardo.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Chair. So I'm  
20 really excited about this item, because these five leaders  
21 have done a fantastic job. They represent a range of  
22 expertise, a range of skills that together just benefit us  
23 so much as an agency when they give us feedback and input  
24 and guidance. They also have a representation of  
25 geographies that are really diverse. So different areas of

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1 Southern California, San Diego, Los Angeles and now the  
2 Salton Sea with Sahara Huazano, and also Northern  
3 California.

4           So I think that they have served us well, have  
5 shown their commitment. They are all very passionate. And  
6 I think it would benefit us to have these five leaders to  
7 be reappointed.

8           I also want to just highlight we have never had a  
9 representation from someone in the Salton Sea. Sahara --  
10 am I pronouncing that correctly, Sahara? She brings that.  
11 She's from Alianza, an organization that's very active in  
12 that region. And so I think that'll be really beneficial  
13 to have her on the DACAG given that we will be working on  
14 Lithium Valley, for example. And we'll be making  
15 presentations and asking for guidance on that front. But  
16 all of them have just proven to be incredible to us.

17           And Román Partida-López is the current Chair, has  
18 done a fabulous job as an expert providing us a lot of  
19 guidance on transportation. And just as a facilitator,  
20 moderator, and lead as the Chair he's done tremendous.

21           So, I highly recommend that we reappoint these  
22 five leaders. And Commissioner Monahan, you're our co-lead  
23 on the DACAG. Did you want to add anything?

24           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, just I want to thank  
25 these leaders for doing this. Because I mean we're

1 reappointing them, but really we should just be grateful  
2 that they're doing this hard work. So I want to thank  
3 them. I mean, they're all amazing leaders in their own  
4 right as Commissioner Gallardo emphasized.

5           And I mean I've worked with Román Partida-López  
6 for many years. He's an expert when it comes to  
7 transportation policy, but he's also just been really adept  
8 at facilitating and making the DACAG lean into the work  
9 that we and the CPUC are shepherding.

10           And I love the fact that there's this mix of  
11 community based groups that are really deeply  
12 representative of communities, like Curtis, like Sahara.  
13 And just they have a lot of lessons for us about what our  
14 work means in real terms with communities that are low  
15 income and struggling.

16           Elena, I don't know if any of you have been on a  
17 workshop with her, but she brings a lot of technical  
18 expertise and really impressive background. So she brings  
19 an academic orientation. Greenlining, of course also kind  
20 of more on the research side, but trying to -- really  
21 connecting that to community.

22           So this is a kind of a rockstar panel. And I'm  
23 just grateful that they are volunteering for this service  
24 to the state.

25           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair?

1           VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, I don't want to repeat  
2 what both Commissioner Gallardo and Commissioner Monahan  
3 mentioned, but I think just to elevate this is not really  
4 reappointment, it's re-volunteering. And I'm just  
5 incredibly grateful for these leaders' times in making sure  
6 that the CEC and CPUC policies are broadly taken into  
7 account the principles of equity.

8           And I also want to just thank our CEC team that  
9 works with the DACAG and really helps facilitate that. So  
10 I thank you for this opportunity to work with the leaders  
11 and look forward to supporting this item. Thanks.

12           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you.

13           Commissioner McAllister?

14           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I just want to thank  
15 the group for stepping up. We really need -- I mean me we  
16 are, I think, in an unprecedented way in many of our  
17 programs -- certainly in the building decarb space we are  
18 looking at it primarily through the lens of equity. And so  
19 that's different than what the way programs have been  
20 constructed previously in the state. And really trying to  
21 move markets beginning with the folks in most need in the  
22 communities that are the least resourced. So we need that  
23 DACAG to engage to help us do that. And it's just a  
24 critical resource. I mean, it's foundational.

25           And so I really want to -- and so it's not an

1 easy job, it's a lot of work. And we're going to be  
2 leaning into the DACAG, and really asking all these folks  
3 and their colleagues to do more even going forward. So  
4 thank you very much and we really appreciate your  
5 investment.

6 CHAIR HOCHSHILD: Thank you.

7 And my thanks as well. You know, there are some  
8 committees that don't do much in the state. This is not  
9 one of those. These guys work and really provide super-  
10 meaningful and timely input on all these critical policies.  
11 And we're so much better off because of the DACAG. So  
12 thank you for your service, and happy to thunderously  
13 endorse your reappointment.

14 And with that I welcome a motion on Item 5 from  
15 Commissioner Gallardo.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 5,  
17 the reappointments of Disadvantaged Communities Advisory  
18 Group members.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from  
20 Commissioner Monahan?

21 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

22 CHAIR HOCHSHCILD: All in favor say aye.  
23 Commissioner Gallardo.

24 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan.

1 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

6 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item  
7 5 passes unanimously.

8 We'll turn now to Item 6, National Wind  
9 Technology Consortium Incorporated dba the National  
10 Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium.

11 MS. MOLIN: Good morning. There we go. Good  
12 morning, Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioners. My name is  
13 Daphne Molin, and I'm a Supervisor in the R&D Division. I  
14 am seeking your approval today to initiate an agreement  
15 with the National Offshore Wind Research and Development  
16 Consortium, or NOW RDC to prepare cost shared solicitation,  
17 and then administer block grants. This partnership is an  
18 important first step for California as we will be able to  
19 leverage consortium partners as we scale up actions to  
20 realize the potential of offshore wind in California. Next  
21 slide, please.

22 We would like to present this proposed agreement  
23 in context of the larger set of activities CEC is  
24 undertaking, so we have a few opening remarks from  
25 Elizabeth Huber, the Director of the Siting, Transmission,

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1 and Environmental Protection Division. And I will provide  
2 an update on additional R&D investments in offshore wind  
3 that are in the works. Then we'll transition on to the  
4 main purpose of this agenda item. Next slide, please.

5 Sorry, go ahead, Elizabeth, thank you.

6 MS. HUBER: Thank you, Daphne. Good morning,  
7 Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioners. For the record I'm  
8 Elizabeth Huber, Director of the Siting Transmission and  
9 Environmental Protection Division.

10 I'll start off by saying into the recent message  
11 from Governor Newsom emphasizing the focus of deploying  
12 offshore wind as a clean energy resource. During his  
13 administration, Governor Newsom has focused on developing  
14 offshore wind generation to achieve our clean energy policy  
15 goals. Here are some recent milestones I'd like to share.

16 In 2021 Governor Newsom signed into law, Assembly  
17 Bill 525, which tasks the California Energy Commission to  
18 develop interim reports and products that will form a  
19 larger strategic plan for offshore wind development in  
20 federal waters off California's coast.

21 The report is expected to be completed by June  
22 30, 2023 in coordination with partners, state and federal  
23 agencies, as well as collaboration and outreach efforts  
24 with various stakeholders, tribal governments and coastal  
25 communities.

1           In July 2022, Governor Newsom issued a letter to  
2 state leaders calling -- issued a letter to state leaders  
3 calling for urgent action to work with our federal partners  
4 to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind to help the  
5 state meet its clean energy goals.

6           Then in August 2022 in response to the Governor's  
7 message, and as part of AB 525 requirements to establish  
8 the platform for the offshore winds strategic plan, the CEC  
9 established aspirational offshore wind planning goals of 2  
10 to 5 gigawatts by 2030, and 25 gigawatts by 2045.

11           California ended 2022 with the Bureau of Ocean  
12 Energy Management, or BOEM, holding a first ever California  
13 lease sale, known as Pacific Wind Lease Sale 1, for  
14 commercial leasing for wind power on the outer continental  
15 shelf in California. This resulted in awards to five  
16 provisional lease holders, and nearly 700 million in high  
17 bids.

18           We started 2023 the way we ended 2022, on a high  
19 note. When on February 22, 2023 on behalf of all  
20 Californians, Governor Newsom joined the White House  
21 partnership on offshore wind. This partnership is designed  
22 to fast track efforts to bring cleaner and cheaper energy  
23 to Americans, create good paying jobs, and build a national  
24 supply chain for offshore wind. Next slide, please.

25           This slide highlights some of California's

1 offshore wind focused activities and investments. The '21-  
2 '22 and '22-'23 state budget included nearly 70 million in  
3 strategic investments to support state agency resources to  
4 advance offshore wind development in a way that considers  
5 outreach and collaboration.

6           Last year's budget allocated nearly 20 million to  
7 support an interagency approach to offshore wind energy.  
8 Nearly 7 million was spread across four state agencies:  
9 State Lands Commission, Ocean Protection Council,  
10 Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Coastal  
11 Commission, for studies to assess port development and the  
12 impacts of medication for ocean users.

13           A 10.5 million CEC grant was awarded to the  
14 Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District as  
15 part of their efforts to make infrastructure improvements  
16 for repurposing the Redwood marine terminal and redevelop  
17 the port to support offshore wind development, which we saw  
18 firsthand last week on how that grant has been implemented.

19           Then 800,000 is allocated to the CEC to support a  
20 design build study for long duration energy storage,  
21 integrated with North Coast offshore wind energy projects.

22           And finally, 1.5 million allocated to the CEC to  
23 support our interagency capacity for outreach and technical  
24 analysis. With the funds from the current 22-23 budget,  
25 the CEC is creating and administering an incentive program



1 to support offshore wind infrastructure improvements in  
2 order to advance the capabilities of California's ports,  
3 harbors, and other waterfront facilities to support the  
4 build out of offshore wind facilities and maximize  
5 environmental benefits of offshore wind industry in  
6 California.

7           The CEC is also creating and administering a  
8 voluntary offshore wind and coastal resources protection  
9 program to support the state's approach to offshore wind  
10 energy development. The program intends to support state  
11 activities and complement and are in furtherance of federal  
12 laws related to the development of offshore wind energy.

13           The budget also includes 4 million to support --  
14 to fill in the requirements of AB 525. This money was  
15 distributed through several state agencies. There is  
16 significant funding towards our EPIC research and  
17 development program, as well as the integrated resource and  
18 transmission planning efforts with the California Public  
19 Utilities Commission to advance offshore wind. Next slide,  
20 please.

21           Here I'll quickly touch on our federally focused  
22 activities. We have and will continue to work closely with  
23 BOEM, which includes our collaboration on the BOEM-  
24 California Intergovernmental Task Force. The Task Force is  
25 a partnership a state, local and tribal governments and

1 other federal agencies to inform the decision-making  
2 process for planning future offshore wind development  
3 opportunities in federal waters off the Coast of  
4 California.

5 The image to the right on the screen depicts  
6 BOEM's wind energy areas and federal waters. As mentioned  
7 earlier, BOEM's first California lease resulted in awards  
8 to five provisional lease holders.

9 The Biden Administration announced bold efforts  
10 to advance US leadership in floating offshore wind to reap  
11 its climate and economic benefits. This includes a target  
12 of employing tens of thousands of workers to deploy 30  
13 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. A floating offshore  
14 wind energy earth shot with the ambitious target to reduce  
15 the cost of floating offshore wind energy by more than 70  
16 per to \$45 per megawatt hour by 2035. BOEM also announced  
17 the related 15 gigawatt deployment target by 2035.

18 As we develop the AB 525 strategic plan, we  
19 expect to identify new sea space area in federal waters  
20 that could result in future BOEM California leases. Next  
21 slide, please.

22 Lastly, we recognize that a thriving offshore  
23 wind industry will drive new jobs and economic  
24 opportunities for California and the Pacific West.  
25 California has taken coordinated steps to support offshore

1 wind, energy development, and job creation by working to  
2 advance California's ambitious offshore wind goals and the  
3 existing projects in the North and Central Coast, investing  
4 in California's infrastructure to strengthen the supply  
5 chain, and deploy offshore wind. And supporting critical  
6 research and development and data sharing.

7           With that said I pass it back to Daphne to  
8 discuss the CEC's R&D investments to support EPIC's  
9 offshore wind research and the proposed agreement with the  
10 NOW RDC block grant program. Thank you.

11           MS. MOLIN: Great, thank you, Elizabeth. Next  
12 slide, please.

13           CEC's R&D Division has long recognized the need  
14 for advancing offshore wind, and as such has invested over  
15 \$8 million in offshore wind-related projects to date. And  
16 has recently released two solicitations, investing more  
17 than \$15 million in additional funds. Looking ahead to the  
18 next couple of years, along with solar technology  
19 innovations, CEC plans to invest an additional \$29 million.  
20 Next slide, please.

21           Last month, we released the Notice of Proposed  
22 Awards for our environmental monitoring technologies  
23 solicitation. The purpose of this solicitation was to  
24 advance technologies to evaluate a diverse array of  
25 potential environmental impacts, such as changes to marine

1 life populations including from collision and entanglement,  
2 and changes to oceanographic processes. We have  
3 recommended three awards -- I'm sorry, we've recommended  
4 awards for three projects.

5           First, with the Lawrence Berkeley National  
6 Laboratory to monitor marine mammal presence, one with  
7 Integral Consulting to monitor seabird interactions with  
8 the turbines. And one with Schatz Energy Research Center  
9 to monitor subsurface collisions and entanglement hazards.  
10 We will be bringing these three agreements to be considered  
11 for approval at upcoming business meetings this spring or  
12 possibly early summer. Next slide, please.

13           The second solicitation released last year  
14 focused on advancing mooring line materials, anchor  
15 designs, and/or shared mooring lines and anchors for  
16 California conditions. We recently evaluated applications  
17 and released our notice of proposed awards this Friday and  
18 expect to bring the awards for your approval this summer.  
19 For the proposed awards, two of them focused on anchor  
20 projects, one focused on shared mooring and anchor  
21 configurations, and one on mooring line materials. Next  
22 slide, please.

23           Our EPIC 4 Investment Plan, which covers funding  
24 through 2025, and has a budget of \$29 million for both  
25 offshore wind and solar R&D. The offshore wind topics that

1 we will consider for additional solicitations may include  
2 optimizing designs for cost and operational efficiency,  
3 cost-effective installation and operations and maintenance  
4 developments, grid integration innovations and port  
5 infrastructure readiness strategies, and environmental  
6 impact assessment and minimization. Next slide, please.

7           Transitioning to the main purpose of this agenda  
8 item, we'd like to present our recommendation to further  
9 our partnership with NOW RDC. Next slide, please.

10           Staff is seeking approval to initiate this sole  
11 source grant agreement with NOW RDC to develop a cost share  
12 solicitation and administer block grants. NOW RDC is a  
13 nationally focused, not for profit organization with  
14 members from many offshore wind leaders representing  
15 industry, state agencies, and the Department of Energy.  
16 Approving this item would expand the breadth of state  
17 representation in NOW RDC's research priorities, as  
18 California is the first West Coast state to join the  
19 consortium.

20           This agreement will leverage knowledge and  
21 lessons learned from key experts to establish priority  
22 offshore wind R&D topics for California that align with our  
23 EPIC investment plan. With input and approval from the  
24 CEC, NOW RDC will prepare solicitations that will leverage  
25 up to \$5 million in EPIC funds for R&D projects and include

1 cost sharing on selected projects from NOW RDC.

2 Project applications will be scored by CEC staff  
3 and other experts who do not have conflicts of interest,  
4 selected with input from the CEC, and proposed awards will  
5 be brought to future business meetings for your approval.  
6 An additional conflicts of interest screening, California  
7 ratepayer benefits analysis, and CEQA assessment will occur  
8 for any project presented for consideration at a business  
9 meeting.

10 NOW RDC will then manage the agreements coming  
11 out of the joint solicitation and provide CEC with regular  
12 updates on project progress and outcomes.

13 CEC sought and received approval by the Joint  
14 Legislative Budget Committee to enter into a sole source  
15 agreement with NOW RDC. Next slide, please.

16 This agreement would bring benefits to California  
17 ratepayers by leveraging federal and state funds to support  
18 R&D projects that advance the technological maturity of  
19 floating systems in a way that is cost effective and  
20 minimizes any impacts to the environment. With the recent  
21 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management auctions held in December  
22 '22 and additional sea space being identified to facilitate  
23 meeting the State's offshore wind energy planning goals of  
24 2-5 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045,  
25 California can expect an accelerated pace of development

1 that will require continued funding and collaboration.

2 Next slide, please.

3           NOWRDC enables such collaboration between  
4 industry, academia, researchers, and government entities to  
5 help meet the various planning goals in other states, and  
6 the federal goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by  
7 2030. CEC joined as public sponsor in August '22 -- August  
8 2022, to participate in information sharing, including in  
9 planning discussions with other state agencies and in R&D  
10 meetings. Next slide, please.

11           As background for NOW RDC, they develop roadmaps  
12 approximately every two years to guide their solicitations,  
13 which have been funded by member states and the Department  
14 of Energy. This has resulted in \$54 million of funding for  
15 52 projects across the United States, with 6 projects in  
16 California. Next slide, please.

17           And with that staff recommendation is that the  
18 CEC approve this agreement, and the staff's determination  
19 that the action is exempt from CEQA. Thank you.

20           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Daphne.  
21 Great presentation.

22           We'll go to public comment on Item 6.

23           MS. BADIE: Thank you. This is Mona Badie, the  
24 Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment  
25 on Item 6.

1           If you're in the room, please use our QR codes at  
2 the Public Advisor table at the back of the room. If you  
3 are on Zoom, please click "raise hand" on your screen to  
4 notify us you want to make a comment. And if you are  
5 joining by phone press \*9 to raise your hand. We are  
6 asking speakers to limit their comments to two minutes  
7 today, and one speaker per entity.

8           Okay, turning to folks in the room I am not  
9 seeing anyone in the queue. I am now going to Zoom. We  
10 have one hand raised, Lyndie Hice-Dunton. I'm going to  
11 open your line. Please spell your name for the record and  
12 unmute on your end and make your comment.

13           MS. HICE-DUNTON: Hi, can you hear me?

14           MS. BADIE: Yes.

15           MS. HICE-DUNTON: Great, thank you. My name is  
16 Lyndie Hice-Dunton L-Y-N-D-I-E H-I-C-E-D-U-N-T-O-N, and I  
17 am the Executive Director of the National Offshore Wind R&D  
18 Consortium, or NOW RDC.

19           NOW RDC is a nationally focused nonprofit  
20 organization collaborating with industry to fund R&D  
21 activities, to accelerate the deployment of offshore wind  
22 in the US, address challenges and obstacles facing the  
23 industry, and maximize economic and social benefits.  
24 Overall we also aim to reduce the levelized cost of energy,  
25 or LCOE, of offshore wind in the US.



1                   NOW RDC was created in 2018 when the US  
2 Department of Energy selected the New York State Energy  
3 Research and Development Authority, or NYSERDA, to create a  
4 new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to advance offshore  
5 wind technology R&D through competitive grants. DOE  
6 provided initial funding with NYSERDA match to form an  
7 initial funding pool of \$41 million, which has since  
8 increased through our partnerships with states and others.

9                   We have several core activities, which include  
10 funding innovation that is responsive to technical and  
11 supply chain barriers, convening strong networks, which  
12 connect tech innovators, researchers, offshore wind and  
13 transmission developers and supply chain companies,  
14 utilities and state and federal agencies, and overall to  
15 increase US content and job opportunities. To date, NOW  
16 RDC has had select several competitive solicitations  
17 resulting in 52 project awards.

18                   Since NOW RDC's formation, 10 offshore wind  
19 developers and 13 other public and independent members have  
20 joined. And we're thrilled to have California be the  
21 seventh state and first West Coast state to join the  
22 consortium. This will provide exciting new opportunities  
23 for floating offshore wind our R&D and innovation.

24                   California's perspective on shaping floating  
25 offshore wind transmission and other key areas of offshore

1 wind research and development will be invaluable. In turn,  
2 we hope to have our current project portfolio and the  
3 future work we fund together. We hope that it helps  
4 California achieve its ambitious offshore wind targets of  
5 up to 5 gigawatts by 2030 and 25 gigawatts by 2045.

6 We'd like to sincerely thank the California  
7 Energy Commission for the opportunity to partner in this  
8 innovative and exciting grant block program, and we are  
9 looking forward to what we can accomplish together. Thank  
10 you.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment. That is  
12 the only public comment for this item. Back to you, Chair.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you.

14 I do have some comments, but let me just open up  
15 to Vice Chair, or anyone else. Go ahead, Vice Chair.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you,  
17 Daphne, for the presentation, and Elizabeth for setting the  
18 context.

19 Yeah, I think just recognizing the value of this  
20 work and our collaboration with NOW RDC. So I'm looking  
21 forward to supporting it.

22 The one question I have is within CEC investments  
23 do we have a kind of a roadmap or a document that  
24 summarizes how we are thinking about both our investments,  
25 but also how it lines up with the broader offshore wind

1 goals of the state -- of the nation as a whole?

2 MS. MOLIN: Is this back on? Good. Mostly we  
3 refer to our EPIC investment plan for that. So we have  
4 four different sub areas that we've identified, which I put  
5 up on an earlier slide. So that's kind of the framing  
6 through 2025. Before that, we had our interim investment  
7 plan, which I identified in a couple areas as well. So  
8 that's kind of our -- you know, the working roadmap.

9 And then, especially more and more recently,  
10 collaborating with the STEP team as well to make sure that  
11 our considerations are put in context of larger efforts.

12 We do hold stakeholder engagement opportunities  
13 such as public workshop I think it was maybe about a year-  
14 and-a-half ago. And we anticipate further stakeholder  
15 engagement, participate in a Consortium Symposium last  
16 year. So there's multiple opportunities we have for  
17 thinking about how to go ahead and like propose what it is  
18 that we're selecting.

19 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, great. I think as the  
20 Chair and everybody mentioned we were on that boat tour.  
21 And then like really recognizing how big of a lift this is  
22 going to be in understanding all the pieces that we ought  
23 to be supporting, moving forward. I'd love to kind of hear  
24 more, maybe separately a debrief on what's the broad  
25 strategy, and then where the challenges and the holes are,

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1 so we can think through. Thank you.

2 MS. MOLIN: Yeah, for sure. Thank you.

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, thank you. Well,  
4 Daphne, thank you for all your work on this. This is  
5 terrific. And let me think as well, the National Offshore  
6 Wind Research and Development Consortium.

7 This is a very strategic investment for us to  
8 make right now. It makes a lot of sense to me to do this  
9 in partnership with other states. And I think actually, to  
10 some extent, it will turn out to be an advantage that we  
11 have a long way to go before the actual installation  
12 occurs, because there's a lot we can do now that's going to  
13 drive cost down. And let me give you an example.

14 In the solar industry in California where we  
15 pioneered large scale utility scale installations I mean  
16 the innovation that happened there was extraordinary,  
17 right? Every post -- foundation post used to be dug out  
18 and be a concrete post, which is really costly and really  
19 time consuming and has a carbon footprint. They innovated  
20 away. Now nobody does that. It's all vibrated to install  
21 posts much faster, low energy to install.

22 Every module used to have a frame. Okay, there's  
23 now a way to get rid of frames entirely. They used to  
24 entirely be fixed tilt systems. The Desert Sunlight  
25 Project First Solar did was entirely a fixed Hill, okay,

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1 because they hadn't an optimized horizontal single axis  
2 tracking, which increases your energy yield 25 percent.

3           So these are the kinds of innovations that can be  
4 achieved. And they're massive cost savings. And we can do  
5 that now. and get ahead of that. And so my number one  
6 request, obviously this kind of goes without saying, but I  
7 will just reiterate it again, we want to push as much of  
8 this into floating technology as possible. That's what  
9 we're going to be doing here in California. And I got  
10 assurance from the National Offshore Wind Research and  
11 Development Consortium, that would be a major focus. So  
12 obviously we're really, you know, a huge part of the US  
13 market and want to direct as much research towards that as  
14 we possibly can.

15           And then finally I think it would make sense to,  
16 and I just mentioned this to Elizabeth Huber as well, to  
17 arrange a presentation on this for the five leasehold  
18 winners and get their input as well. We're now doing  
19 monthly meetings with them. They have transitioned from  
20 being competitors in these processes, to now being  
21 neighbors, right? Three in the Central Coast and two in  
22 the North Coast. And just getting their input as well on  
23 key technology challenges I think would be really useful.

24           So I'm thrilled this is finally happening. I  
25 especially want to thank my Chief of Staff, Kat Robinson,

1 who engaged on this issue as well, and thank the  
2 Legislature for their support.

3 And with that I'd welcome a motion unless there's  
4 other Commissioner discussion.

5 Yeah, sorry. Please, Commissioner Gallardo.

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, I think this is a  
7 great idea to join a consortium. I think, because of the  
8 lessons learned that we'll be able to benefit from.

9 And just on that front I was curious, Daphne, do  
10 you know if the Consortium has done any work on, for  
11 example, like community benefits or impacts to communities  
12 that we could potentially benefit from?

13 The reason I bring this up is because during the  
14 tour, we were able to see an area that has affordable  
15 housing. And those -- the people living there will  
16 definitely be impacted. And I'm hoping that they can  
17 actually be benefited from what's going to happen around  
18 there. But it was just an interesting, just this section  
19 of housing there and not much else other than some  
20 industrial area. So I apologize if I'm throwing this up a  
21 little bit, but I'm just curious if you could speak to  
22 that.

23 MS. MOLIN: Yeah, I don't know offhand. I'd have  
24 to look into it.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, I don't think this --

1 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: That's fair.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: This is really a technology --  
3 innovation for wind technology.

4 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Daphne.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: But I do think, to your point,  
6 there's a lot there with the bid credits that can be  
7 explored. Because we got 25 percent bid credits, which is  
8 the highest that's ever been awarded. So essentially that  
9 means monies that would otherwise be going just to the  
10 federal treasury can instead be paid into local investments  
11 that will benefit the state. So that's I think an  
12 opportunity for a lot more local benefits.

13 Unless there are other comments I welcome a  
14 motion from Vice Chair Gunda on Item 6.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Move Item 6.

16 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from  
17 Commissioner McAllister?

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Second Item 6.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye. Vice  
20 Chair Gunda.

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

22 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

24 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo.

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Commissioner Monahan.

2 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye

3 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item  
4 6 passes unanimously. Thank you, Daphne.

5 We will turn now to Item 7, which is Cuberg.  
6 Welcome, Pilar to present. Hey, Pilar I think you need to  
7 push the button.

8 (Off-mic colloquy.)

9 MS. MAGAÑA: Good Morning Chair, Vice-Chair and  
10 Commissioners. My name Pilar Magaña with the Fuels and  
11 Transportation Division.

12 Staff is seeking approval for a project with  
13 Cuberg, Inc. in San Leandro, California which is being  
14 proposed for funding under the Zero-Emission Transportation  
15 Manufacturing Solicitation. Next slide, please.

16 As of January 2023, the Notice of Proposed  
17 Awards, 13 projects are recommended for funding under this  
18 solicitation for a total of \$199.4 million.

19 This is the 7th of 13 projects being proposed for  
20 funding under this solicitation, with 6 projects already  
21 approved at previous business meetings and 6 to be proposed  
22 at future meetings. Next slide.

23 If approved for funding, Cuberg's project will  
24 create job and economic benefits for California through the  
25 hiring of more than 300 diverse workers. This hiring will

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1 emphasize job quality and continued development through an  
2 Inclusion and Diversity in Hiring Program, which will also  
3 include upward mobility initiatives. At full production  
4 capacity, Cuberg technology could contribute to the  
5 reduction of 459 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions  
6 in just one year. Next slide, please.

7           This agreement will design and build out a  
8 lithium metal battery manufacturing facility for zero  
9 emission vehicles. Cuberg will be implementing an end to  
10 end production process for high performance and improved  
11 safety battery modules by processing raw materials to  
12 create the batteries, followed by shipment to vendors with  
13 a targeted production output of 2.7 million battery cells  
14 per year, which is the equivalent to 200 megawatt hours.

15           Cuberg also intends to de-risk the supply chain  
16 and find domestic vendors and suppliers for battery  
17 production while developing a quality management system  
18 that complies with national and international quality  
19 standards.

20           This agreement is for approximately \$11.2 million  
21 with 51 million in match funding. Next slide, please.

22           Staff is seeking your approval for this agreement  
23 as well as adoption of staff findings that this project is  
24 exempt from CEQA.

25           And we have Megan Haines from Cuberg in

1 attendance via Zoom who will be happy to answer any  
2 questions, and that concludes my presentation, and I am  
3 happy to answer any questions you may have.

4 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you so much, Pilar.  
5 We'll go to public comment on Item 7.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you. This is Mona Badie, the  
7 Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment  
8 on Item 7. If you're in the room with us, please use the  
9 QR code posted in the back at the Public Advisor table to  
10 let us know you'd like to make a comment. If you're on  
11 Zoom, we ask that you raise your hand. It is the open palm  
12 on your screen. And if you're joining by phone, please  
13 press \*9 to raise your hand.

14 We are asking comments to be limited to two  
15 minutes or less per speaker and one speaker per entity.  
16 Okay, going to the queue in the room. I am not seeing  
17 anyone on here, so I will turn now to Zoom.

18 We have one raised hand from Mike Bravely. Mike,  
19 I don't -- I'm not sure if you wanted to make a public  
20 comment, but I'm going to open your line. Okay, maybe that  
21 was a mistaken raised hand. That's all that we have for  
22 today.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, is the representative  
24 from Cuberg on the Zoom?

25 MS. BADIE: Oh wait. Yes, we have Megan Haines.

1 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. I do have a question.  
2 So I was able to visit the facility, I don't know, maybe  
3 six months ago, five, six months ago. But I just would  
4 appreciate a little refresh for the benefit of the  
5 Commission on the advantages of the Cuberg chemistry that  
6 you're manufacturing there.

7 MS. HAINES: Right. Can you hear me?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MS. HAINES: Awesome. So as you probably  
10 remember from the visit a few months ago, which I was also  
11 in the room for, we've developed an electrolyte that pairs  
12 with a lithium metal anode, which creates significant  
13 advances in energy density, the Cuberg cell.

14 So what we're doing with this project is we're  
15 scaling up our production (indiscernible) with a cell  
16 that's more energy dense than kind of anything on the  
17 market. It has a broader cycle life than anything on the  
18 market. And we are, you know, expanding from the building  
19 that you guys all were able to tour into the neighboring  
20 city. And so, this project was really part of expanding  
21 and solidifying our cell chemistry, cell technology, and  
22 then, you know, commercializing that with our partners.

23 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Great, thank you. Well, I'm  
24 thrilled to support this. I mean, this to me is part of  
25 Lithium Valley (indiscernible) large. This is battery

1 manufacturing and ramping up an industry that's essential  
2 for our climate efforts, and the future of our economy.  
3 It's been wonderful to see so much innovation happening in  
4 the battery space. And certainly, you know, our goal is  
5 for as much of that lithium to be produced sustainably here  
6 in-state instead of imported from Australia, China, South  
7 America, which is how most of it gets to us today.

8           So I'm really excited to see the momentum here.  
9 And this Cuberg, I think, is joining with a wonderful  
10 mosaic of other chemistries that we've been supporting  
11 Sepion, Coreshell, and Sparks and so many others. That I'm  
12 really excited for the next wave of battery chemistry and  
13 what that can mean for cost reduction, improved  
14 reliability, improved energy density.

15           It's extremely significant because of the delta  
16 between contemporary technologies and next gen lithium ion.  
17 You know, you look at what -- just the next chapter, the  
18 number of new classes of vehicles that that means can go  
19 electric, and you can really make it work from a cost and  
20 range perspective. This battery -- and of course batteries  
21 are half the cost of a typical electric vehicle.

22           So it's very high stakes and a very exciting  
23 space that we're part of. So I want to commend you, Pilar,  
24 and all your colleagues on the team.

25           Other comments? Commissioner Monahan, yes,

1 please.

2 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I just want to build  
3 on, Chair, what you were saying about our visit to the  
4 facility. And just how Cuberg kind of represents, I would  
5 say, the value that the CEC brings to the R&D ecosystem,  
6 and now to the commercial scale ecosystem when it comes to  
7 clean energy.

8 And I mean so this was like the twinkle in the  
9 founder's eye in 2015. And it came out of the Tomcat  
10 facility in Stanford. And the facility received a series  
11 of CEC EPIC grants sort of from early stage to scale up.  
12 And when we met with the founder he said that a CEC grant  
13 was critical to sustaining the fledgling organization in an  
14 early part of its startup lifecycle.

15 So it's I think particularly heartening to now  
16 give a grant for the full scale up of the facility. And I  
17 just think this is really an example of where EPIC has done  
18 its job. And now we get to see the fruits of the labor  
19 here in California.

20 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah, Commissioner Gallardo,  
21 please.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Just a quick comment to  
23 celebrate also the job creation. I did see that  
24 potentially 300 jobs, which I think is always a great  
25 benefit that we're supporting. So, just want to highlight

1 that.

2 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Yeah. Commissioner Monahan,  
3 would you be willing to move Item 7?

4 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move Item 7.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from  
6 Commissioner Gallardo?

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second Item 7.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye.  
9 Commissioner Monahan.

10 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

13 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner McAllister.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

15 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And I vote aye as well. Item  
18 7 passes unanimously. Congratulations.

19 We'll turn now to Item 8, which is the minutes of  
20 the February 15th meeting. Any public comment on Item 8?

21 MS. BADIE: This is Mona Badie, the Public  
22 Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment on  
23 Item 8. If you are in the room, please visit the table  
24 with the QR code to let us know you'd like to make a  
25 comment. If you're on Zoom, you can use the "raise hand"

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1 feature on your screen and if you're joining by phone,  
2 press \*9 to raise your hand.

3 We are asking for comments to be limited to two  
4 minutes or less. And one speaker per entity. Looking at  
5 the queue for in-room, I am not seeing anyone. Now turning  
6 to Zoom, we do not have any raised hands. Back to you,  
7 Chair.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay, all right. Is there a  
9 motion from Commissioner McAllister on Item 8?

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I move Item 8.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Is there a second from  
12 Commissioner Gallardo?

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

14 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: All in favor, say aye.  
15 Commissioner McAllister.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Aye.

17 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Gallardo.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

19 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Vice Chair Gunda.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Aye.

21 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Commissioner Monahan.

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: And I vote aye as well.

23 Item 8 passes unanimously.

24 We'll turn now to Item 9, Lead Commissioner and  
25 Presiding Member Reports. We've had quite a few meetings

1 recently, so we're pretty caught up. I don't have much  
2 else to add unless -- are we good? Okay. We're pretty  
3 good.

4 Okay. Let's turn to Item 10, Executive  
5 Director's Report.

6 MR. BOHAN: Good morning, Chair, Commissioners.  
7 I have no report. Thank you.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Okay. Is there a -- Item 11,  
9 Public Advisor's Report.

10 MS. BADIE: No report from me. Thank you.

11 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: And Chief Counsel's Report,  
12 Item 12.

13 MS. BARRERA: I do have a report, fairly quick.  
14 I was asked to give some remarks and I was a little bit  
15 surprised and wasn't ready. And I thought about it a  
16 little bit more and I wanted to share something else with  
17 you which is not only to thank you for your vision and your  
18 leadership in this effort on like implementing tribal  
19 energy sovereignty, but also for welcoming my family during  
20 the amazing last couple of days. And I just want to let  
21 you know why I brought them.

22 So you met my husband, Jason Gray, and my  
23 daughter Lucia and my son, Ismael. And they are here,  
24 because of indigenous communities. I met Jason in law  
25 school. But the only thing we -- the reason we got -- we



1 stuck together is because he learned I was from Panama.  
2 And just coincidentally were in law school, and we were in  
3 this legal clinic. And we were basically volunteering or  
4 hired by a nonprofit to advocate for stopping huge  
5 hydroelectric dams in the Northeast part of Panama in the  
6 province of Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui. And Lucia and  
7 Ismael are here in this world, because of the Naso  
8 indigenous tribe and Ngäbe-Buglé indigenous tribe. I spent  
9 three or four years of my life working with that indigenous  
10 community, with Jason and with a significant amount of  
11 community groups in Panama, to stop these hydroelectric  
12 dams.

13           And it was very ironic, because since I was a  
14 teenager, all that I wanted to do before climate change was  
15 sexy, was to build clean energy projects. And then  
16 hydroelectric dams. I mean, that's carbon free. And so I  
17 was faced with that dichotomy, and from an early moment in  
18 my career. Because these communities weren't -- didn't  
19 benefit from free -- from previous or a persistent ability  
20 to be part of the decision-making process and at the table.

21           So I learned a whole lot from that experience.  
22 So my affinity for working on indigenous rights, especially  
23 in the area of energy runs really deep. And that's why  
24 Jason now works for the Governor's Climate and Forest  
25 Taskforce helping indigenous communities all over the

1 world, especially in the Amazon, protect their forests,  
2 generate revenue through sustainable and smart climate  
3 solutions and enterprise.

4           And the fact that I am here, Chief Counsel, as  
5 the Chief Counsel of the Energy Commission -- you know I'm  
6 very reserved. I don't -- I advise I don't give remarks.  
7 So it doesn't come -- it's not natural to me, but I wanted  
8 to share that part of my background. And that's why I  
9 brought them to this tour. Because I truly believe that  
10 our kids are the future. And I want them to be exposed to  
11 try and link California to the work we do.

12           Them having the opportunity to hear you, to see  
13 you speak about these issues is super important. Because I  
14 know Lucia and Ismael -- Ismael wants to save frogs in  
15 Latin America. And Lucia, I mean I just see her becoming  
16 the President of Panama or something like that.

17           So I just wanted to reflect on the fact that I  
18 think we should expose our children more to the work we do.  
19 Because that inspires them and makes them understand their  
20 place in the world. And they spend too much time at the  
21 building, so it's an excellent time to bring them on this  
22 road trip that has significant meaning to why we're here in  
23 this world and where we're going. So thank you so much for  
24 being so kind with my kids.

25           CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Best Chief Counsel's Report

1 ever. Thank you so much for sharing that. And I think  
2 we're all ready to go volunteer in your daughter's  
3 presidential campaign.

4 We're adjourned. Thanks, everybody.

5 (The Business Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.)

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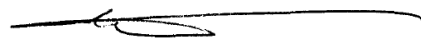
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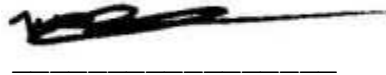
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of March, 2023.



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