

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
<b>TN #:</b>	249239
<b>Document Title:</b>	Draft DACAG Meeting Minutes 02-17-23
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<b>Filer:</b>	Dorothy Murimi
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	3/16/2023 12:06:56 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	3/16/2023

## February 17, 2023 - DACAG Meeting Minutes

Agenda: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=248680>

### ITEM 1, Welcome and roll call of the members

The Chair celebrated Black History Month and honored the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history, while encouraging members of the DACAG, the CEC, and the CPUC to be intentional in our work to improve the socioeconomic and environmental conditions for our African American community, who continue to experience an increase in energy burden and who have yet to maximize the benefits from the clean energy economy.

Member Attendance		
<i>* Write arrival time next to member name if member is late.</i>		
Member	Present	Absent
Adrian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fred	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephanie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elena	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sahara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Group has quorum to move forward with voting items.

### ITEM 2, General public comment

Name, Affiliation, Comment

- *Adria Tinnin, Race Equity Analyst @ TURN*— re: Federal Funding Account, part of broadband OIR 20-09-001 for last-mile broadband infrastructure. Late last month, the priority areas map was issued; the criteria were supposed to be (1) unserved area and (2) makes a substantial contribution to State's broadband goals. CostQuest, the company responsible for producing the map, used a methodology solely based on a business model. The result is that the vast majority of areas prioritized for these federal funds are high-income white neighborhoods; only a handful include the State average for Black residents and none of those are low-income. The result is that zero low-income communities of color are included on that map as currently published. The proposed solution that TURN would like DACAG consideration on is to use the socioeconomic vulnerability index and CalEnviroScreen for priority mapping.

### ITEM 3, Opening comments by the CEC and CPUC Commissioners or their advisors

Commissioners in Attendance:

- CEC Commissioners
  - Chair Hochschild

- Vice Chair Gunda
- Commissioner Gallardo (2:00pm)
  - Excited to be back in this new role and to contribute to this work in an even bigger way.
- Commissioner Monahan
  - Commissioner Gallardo was sworn in on Wednesday and will be the new assigned Commissioner for the DACAG. Thrilled to be partnering with her and to have her skillset contributing to this work.
  - Embarking on a process to better define community benefits this year.
- Commissioner McAllister
- CPUC
  - President Reynolds
  - Commissioner Douglas
    - Has been with the CPUC in this role for over a month now; delighted to be here and to reengage with the DACAG, which she's followed and engaged with since its inception.
  - Commissioner Houck
  - Commissioner Shiroma
  - Commissioner Reynolds

**ITEM 4, DACAG members review January 20, 2023, meeting minutes**

Public Comment

- N/A

**DACAG Discussion**

- Legal proposed edits to the version docketed today reflecting the discussion about the DACAG's plan to propose comments to the Gas R&D plan to more accurately reflect the transcript. Changes are tracked.

Motion to approve Item 4, the [Previous Month's Meeting Minutes](#), January 20, 2023, as amended.

<b>Member who makes motion</b>	Jana
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Member to seconds motion to approve

<b>Member who Seconds</b>	Elena
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<b>Member Votes</b>				
<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>No Vote</b>
<b>Adrian</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Andres</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Jana</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Roger</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Roman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Stephanie</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Elena</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Curtis</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Julia</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sahara</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Passes</b>	<b>Doesn't Pass</b>	<b>If not unanimous, include vote count</b>
ITEM 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**ITEM 5, CEC Opt-In Certification Program: CEC staff presentation and DACAG discussion**

Presentation Title: *Opt-in Certification*, Eric Knight, CEC

Full presentation: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=248809>

Notes:

- Established by AB 205
- Creates a new program for certain non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and clean energy manufacturing facilities to optionally seek a permit from CEC ("opt-in" program).
- Streamlines process for certain facilities to seek permit or certification from the CEC to construct and operate, in lieu of a permit that would otherwise be provided by local and/or State government.
- In place until 6/30/2029. Must create a net economic benefit to local government and include community benefit agreement.
- Reviewed application process, public outreach, staff assessment, Commission decision.
- Regarding community benefits:
  - Ways to demonstrate overall net positive economic benefit to the local government include:
    - Employment growth
    - Housing development
    - Infrastructure and environmental improvements
    - Assistance to public schools and education
    - Assistance to public safety agencies and departments
    - Property taxes and sales and use tax revenues
  - Must enter into legally-binding, enforceable agreements with CBOs, such as:
    - Workforce development & training orgs
    - Labor unions
    - Social justice advocates
    - Local govt entities
    - CA Native American tribes
  - CBA terms may include:
    - Workforce development
    - Job quality
    - Job access

- Particularly interested at this time in outlets besides workshops for obtaining public comment on proposed projects.

#### Public Comment

- N/A

#### DACAG Member Discussion:

- What do binding community agreements look like?
  - Statute includes examples of entities, but not much beyond that. Seems to include negotiation between applicant and other parties to an agreement.
- Challenging to discuss without seeing the specific statute language related to community benefit agreements, workforce standards, etc.
- Exciting to see CBAs included here and to see them increasingly representing in things like the Inflation Reduction Act; the question is enforceability. May warrant additional briefing and specific requests for further comment at future meetings.
- Input on ways to best inform communities near the site.
- This could mean that an applicant could be rejected by the local government and then “appeal” to the CEC as an alternative route to get a permit.
- Overall purpose of streamlined permitting is to provide this alternative to have more clean energy resources in CA; not intended to be a “workaround”. Put additional requirements on the table for those seeking the alternative that bring community benefit.
- Biofuels – or any combustion – could be permitted through this, if they were 50MW or larger. Only prohibits fossil fuels.
- Subscribe to project notifications available here: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31796>. Could flag new projects that apply for Opt-In for this group as they come up.
- Excited to see things like high road agreements, prevailing wage, skilled and trained workforce, worker voice, career advancement – indicates a commitment to job quality and access, not just job creation.
- The Empower Innovation website may also be a place to announce projects – many CBOs track that.
- Example of a CBA for the Fountain Wind Project: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31796>.

#### **ITEM 6, CPUC Tribal and Community-Based Organization Public Participation and Clean Energy Outreach Capacity Grant Program: CPUC staff presentation and DACAG discussion**

Presentation Title: *Equity Initiatives and Clean Energy Access Grant Program*, Jesus Torres and Asia Powell, CPUC

Full presentation: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=248810>

#### Notes:

- AB 179 approves \$30M to expand scope of public participation to include community-based orgs and tribal organizations that have not historically engaged with matters before the CPUC
- Broken down into three types of grants

- Public Participation Grants
  - Intended to remove financial and capacity-based barrier that organizations face when attempting to engage with the CPUC
  - \$2.5M; cap of \$15K per organization; rolling cycle
  - Streamlined application and prompt payments
  - Awardees will not be eligible for Intervenor Compensation for the same activities
  - Aligns with ESJ Action Plan
  - Eligible activities include Working Group Meetings, Focus Groups, Workshops, Advisory Board/Committee Members, En Banc Meeting Panelists
    - Proposed compensation: \$150/hr, including meeting prep, meetings, post-meeting follow-up
  - Apply for funds after each activity or series of activities
- Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants
  - Ensure views of underrepresented communities are heard in decision-making processes (CPUC and other State agencies) by enabling formal participation of tribes and CPOs.
  - Build capacity to apply for and receive Intervenor Compensation (though cannot claim for same activities)
  - Hiring consultants and staff for active participation in decision-making processes
  - Total proposed funding: \$8M; up to \$100K per grant
  - 2 cycles: awarded summers of 2023 and 2024
- Clean Energy Access Grants
  - Total funding: \$17M; \$100K-\$1.25M per grant
  - Awards to CBOs and tribes through June 2027
  - For community-facing work (vs. agency-facing)
  - Supports CBOs and tribes to serve as trusted intermediaries to perform community outreach, increase community engagement and participation in available programs
  - Does not pay for physical infrastructure or equipment
  - Grants go to 3<sup>rd</sup> party technical assistance provider, with subgrants to tribes and CBOs
  - Hoping TA providers will apply as a coalition
  - Restricted to:
    - Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
    - Increasing subscriptions to Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)
  - Dedicated Tribal Funding carve-out of \$1M total (minimum)
    - \$100K / \$250K / \$650K
  - Public webinar: 2/15; comments due 2/27; draft resolution late March; public application workshop in mid-May; round 1 applications in late May
  - Comments: [outreach@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:outreach@cpuc.ca.gov)
  - Will go to Commission vote (by resolution in late April); in proposal stage

Public Comment

- N/A

## Q&A

- In order to protect the Public Participation Program grant money from being used by large organizations that are already frequent participants, has the Commission considered adding a budget cap for eligibility for that program? In other words, a CBO with a budget of \$5million, for instance, would not be eligible for a Public Participation Program grant but would still be eligible for the Equity, Engagement and Education Program grant.
  - CPUC suggested submitting comment for consideration.
  - Cap is there to disincentivize larger orgs.
  - Could consider financial need/budget as part of scoring rubric.

## DACAG Member Discussion:

- Excited to see how this is broken down into compensation for general engagement and substantial funding for those who want to truly build capacity to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes; it does truly take at least 1 FTE to do this work and this funding provides that.
- Engagement grants will allow more experienced CBOs to walk through the IComp award process with new awardees to learn how to successfully access that path.
- Will be excited to market this in South LA with many of the Black and Brown CBOs
- Have already sent this to colleagues in other States to bring it to their utility commissions as well.
- Excitement and support for this, and to see how it's evolved over the last few years.
- Microgrid Incentive Program – Proposed Decision says that joint IOUs may consult with the DACAG on the selection process; DACAG had hoped to be more involved in the selection process. Perhaps the engagement process can serve as that filter to ensure that projects are sited in the right places.
- \$30M will go quickly; while this is a one-time allocation, we do want to identify additional and ongoing funding and use this to demonstrate the need and the benefit/impact.
- Consider developing training and educational workshops about how to engage, participate, and understand the structure of the CPUC. Will also have application support internally. Public Advisor's office can also provide support on how to engage.
- Recommend developing a set of shareable resources for the organizations that are (and aren't) successful in applying.
- Consider raising the caps - \$100K may not cover an FTE; could they be based on need demonstrated by the organization?
- Would like to explore how other agencies, State legislature, etc., may get involved to make this an ongoing and permanent opportunity. There hasn't been a pathway for that in the past and are hoping this will make the case for permanent funding for the CPUC and other agencies for this need.
- Outreach plan after approval: consider Empower Innovation network, AB 617 Steering Committees. Leverage agency CBO lists, local liaisons, etc. Open to DACAG ideas and partnership on getting the word out.
- Discussed submitting formal comments; timeline may be challenging. Could consider commenting on the draft Resolution as an alternative. Decided we'd wait for the draft Resolution (late March); Community Engagement Priority Area may take this on.

## ITEM 7, DACAG discussion and possible adoption of comments to CEC Gas R&D Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25

(Moved after ITEM 4)

### Public Comment

- N/A

### DACAG Member Discussion:

- Reviewed [comment letter](#) developed by Jana and Elena.
- Comments represent and reflect the discussion from the January 2023 DACAG meeting regarding the Gas R&D plan.
- Time-sensitive item.
- Four sections:
  - Hydrogen Leak Mitigation and Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub
  - Building Decarbonization
    - Strongly support research into accelerating decarbonization, including proposed research on public health impacts of cooking and other indoor uses of natural gas.
    - Include assessment of demographics of exposed populations and research on homes within disadvantaged communities.
    - Recommend building decarb pilots at representational scales and will full gas decommissioning scenarios.
    - Added language on recommending that building decarb research include an economic impact (on adopters and non-adopters) for DACs and low-income participants.
  - Cross-Cutting Innovations
    - Recommend prioritizing demonstration for DACs.
    - Recommend workforce development and contractor training components.
    - Recommend including non-energy benefits.
  - Gas System & Safety: Methane Leaks
    - Recommend moving this priority from 2024-25 to the 2023-24 research slate, and an accelerated deployment of methane sensors and increased use of satellite detection technologies.
    - Recommend accelerated gas decommissioning prioritizing as systems with high rates of leakage and leakage in DACs.
- Plan from last meeting was for this letter to be submitted, unratified, by SMEs for reapproval by the DACs. In agenda-setting meeting, decided to bring it directly back to the DACAG for direct approval.

### Second Request for Public Comments

- *Sonja Robinson, Sustainable Urban Network* – Terminology “DAC” is problematic. Will the Commission be able to asterisk the terminology DAC, as this terminology in general is not welcoming to the communities it is intended to reference. The White House has footnoted the same that this terminology is problematic. (Just curious if the Commission is willing to do the same?)

- Sarah Thomas, CPUC Legal Division – There are references to that terminology in the public utilities code. To share more about you can email: [sarah.thomas@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:sarah.thomas@cpuc.ca.gov)
- Some of us have used the term “ESJ Communities”, which also encompasses more priority communities.
- Take this into consideration as we review our Equity Framework, and begin using “ESJ Communities” in our comment letters.

Motion to approve Item 7, DACAG Comments to CEC Gas R&D Plan, FY23-24 and FY24-25

<b>Member who makes motion</b>	Roman
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Member to seconds motion to approve

<b>Member who Seconds</b>	Curtis
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<b>Member Votes</b>				
<b>Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>No Vote</b>
<b>Adrian</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Andres</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Jana</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Roger</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Roman</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Stephanie</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Elena</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Curtis</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Julia</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sahara</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Passes</b>	<b>Doesn't Pass</b>	<b>If not unanimous, include vote count</b>
ITEM 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### **ITEM 8, DACAG discussion and possible update of 2023 priority areas**

Current priority areas:

- Transportation Electrification
- Building Decarbonization & Electrification
- Workforce Training & Development
- Reliability
- Gas Transition
- Distributed Energy Resources

- Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program
- Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)
- Affordability
- Community Engagement

Public Comment:

- N/A

Priority Area Developments:

- N/A

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Proposed 2023 areas:
  - Affordability
  - Workforce Training & Development
  - Tribal and Community Engagement & Participation
  - Building Decarbonization & Electrification
  - Reliability & Flexibility
  - SB 100
  - Resiliency
  - DER Deployment and Distribution Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities\*
  - Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program
  - Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)
  - Transportation Electrification
  - Clean Hydrogen
  - Lifeline Programs, Broadband, etc.
  - Energy-Impacted and -Impacting Services

DACAG Member Priority Area Selections:

- Stephanie and Roger stepped out and others are absent: begin to ID interest areas, but hold off on finalizing leads.
- Identify 1-2 co-lead, up to 3 SMEs max per Priority Topics to be called on as individuals by either agency.
- Is there a compliant way to work on this offline with DACAG admin support? This could be a serial meetings prohibition issue. Could we have a sign-up sheet (no discussion) – begin a list to share and discuss at the next meeting?
  - Yes “individual raise-hand” effort. Completely appropriate to poll individual members to identify their areas of interest.
- What is “Energy-Impacted and -Impacting Services”?
- Any list shared should include a brief description of the area based on our previous discussions; the Agenda-Setting team can work on that in their next meeting (full, formal descriptions will be developed by SMEs and leads).

- If we don't have anyone signed up for a given Priority Area, should we remove it as a Priority Area? These haven't yet been officially adopted. Ideally, we'd want someone on each topic, but we could discuss this point if we end up in this situation.

### **ITEM 9, DACAG discussion of DACAG Equity Framework**

Public Comment

- N/A

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Last month, Roman promised to develop a document outlining a proposed process for updating the DACAG Equity Framework (shared in-meeting).
  - Overview of Framework, its creation, and the need for its update by end of 2023.
  - Reviewed proposed process and timeline
    - Monthly agenda item with unlimited comment period for community members
    - Alignment with ESJ plan and CEC's equity definition
    - CEC and CPUC review and input on use of the Framework, lessons learned and recommendations
    - Open docket for feedback
    - DACAG member discussion
    - Community stakeholder invitations for in-person meetings
  - Appreciate stakeholder engagement and input. To maximize accessibility – could we hold DACAG meetings after business hours a certain number of times per year?
  - Reconsider the language and terms we're using – "disadvantaged communities" – this is an opportunity to do that.
  - Crucial to refresh this document; many of us use it frequently in our personal work. Ensure we get agency input to make it as useful and usable as possible.
  - Consider establishing a schedule and process for ongoing updates.

### **ITEM 10, DACAG discussion of DACAG Annual Report**

Public Comment

- N/A

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Dorothy and Phil compiled all Public Comments/Letters for '21-'22.
- Each priority area lead should work with SMEs to put together a brief description of the efforts undertaken for that area and submit to Adrian and Roman by March 6, 2023, for Adrian to bring back to the group for the next meeting.
- Reference the previous Annual Report for a template of what the descriptions should look like (will share that report).
- (Roger returned.)
- Time period covered is June 2021-June 2022.
- Will work on '22-23 later.

### **ITEM 11, DACAG member(s) provide update regarding engagement, if any, with the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB)**

Member Update:

- None. Would like to finalize 2023 Priority Areas first.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is coming up.

Public Comment:

- N/A

DACAG Member Discussion:

- N/A

**ITEM 12, CEC and CPUC staff provide agency updates and announcements**

- CEC Updates
  - Newsletter coming today via email; will include 2023 proposed Priority Areas and 2022 Priority Areas and assignment. Will also include 2021-22 comments to support Annual Report creation. Finally, will create a form to email interest areas for 2023 Priority Areas.
  - Nanogrid Scoping Workshop coming up; additional information in the newsletter.
  - Commission Gallardo plans to attend all future DACAG meetings.
- CPUC Updates
  - Looking forward to working with our new Commissioners.

**ITEM 13, General public comment**

Public Comment

- N/A

**ITEM 14, DACAG members determine future meeting format, dates, locations, and topics**

- The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 17th at 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom.
- Intend for the April 21st meeting to be in-person in San Diego. Hoping for an educational component in the community in the AM.
- As we go down the path of adjusting the Framework, we may need to adjust our meeting times – evening meetings, etc. – to allow for more community participation. Could be our virtual or our in-person meeting times.
  - Objections
    - N/A
  - Possible Agenda Items
    - DACAG Annual Report
    - DACAG Equity Framework and Process
    - Priority Area Descriptions and SME/Lead Assignments

**ITEM 15, Adjourn**

- Time Adjourned: 4:02PM