

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-BUSMTG-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Business Meeting Agendas, Transcripts, Minutes, and Public Comments
<b>TN #:</b>	251503
<b>Document Title:</b>	Transcript of the July 26, 2023 Business Meeting
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Kristine Banaag
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	8/4/2023 3:19:41 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	8/4/2023

BUSINESS MEETING

BEFORE THE

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 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 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 two minutes or less per person.*

Reported by:  
C. Caplan

APPEARANCES (\*Present via Zoom)

Commissioners

Andrew McAllister  
Noemi Gallardo  
Patty Monahan

Staff Present:

Linda Barrera, Chief Counsel  
Mona Badie, Public Advisor  
Elizabeth Huber, Director, Siting, Transmission, and  
Environmental Protection Division  
Joseph Hughes, Acting Engineering Branch Manager  
Andres Perez, Air Resources Engineer  
Tanner Kelsey, Lead Counsel  
Erik Lyon, Advisor to Vice Chair Gunda  
Lisa DeCarlo, Chief Counsel's Office  
Kari Anderson, Chief Counsel's Office  
Camden Burke, Shultz Energy Fellow

	Agenda Item
Joseph Douglas	4
Ashley Emery	5
Ben De Alba	6
Hieu Nguyen	7
Jeffrey Sunquist	8
Jeanie Mar	9
Mark Danielson	10, 11

Agenda Item

Also Present:

Speakers:

Elizabeth Huber, Director, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division, CEC	4
Erik Lyon, Advisor to Vice Chair Gunda	5
Jimmy O'Dea, Caltrans	6
Camden Burke, Shultz Energy Fellow	

APPEARANCES (Cont.)

<u>Public Comment:</u> (*Present via Zoom)	Agenda Item
*Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.	1, 4, 5 6, 10
Jon Trujillo, BHE Renewables	3
Grace Pratt, Sunrun, Inc.	5
Meredith Alexander, Hua Nani Partners on behalf of Generac Power Systems	5
*Kate Unger, CA Solar & Storage Association	5
*Clark McIsaac, CEDMC	5
*Cliff Staton, OhmConnect	5
*Andrew Cole, Leap Energy	5
*Derek Maunus, GILLIG, LLC.	7
*Sara Beaini, EPRI	9
*Kelly Boyd, Equinor	10, 11
*Marcus Chevitarese, Sightir, Inc.	10
*Scott Morgan, Ocean Winds Golden State Wind Project	10, 11
*Molly Croll, ACP California	11
*Jason Cotrell, RCAM Technologies	11
*Erin Kester, RNE Renewables	11

I N D E X

	Page
Proceedings	8
Items	
1. Public Comment	9, 13, 30, 65, 84, 92, 104
2. Agency Announcements	11
3. Consent Calendar	12
a. Local Ordinance for the City of Santa Clara.	
b. Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) - 23-AFC-01.	
c. Elmore North Geothermal Project (ENGP) - 23-AFC-02.	
d. Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP) - 23-AFC-03.	
e. Aspen Environmental Group.	
f. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus - Proposed resolution approving agreement 600-23-002.	
g. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus - Proposed resolution approving agreement 500-23-001.	
h. Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program - PON-22-001.	
i. Panama-Buena Vista Union School District.	
ii. Livingston Union Elementary School District.	
iii. Goleta Union Elementary School District.	

I N D E X (Cont.)

	Page
3. Consent Calendar (Cont.)	12
h. Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) Loan Program - PON-22-001. (Cont.)	
iv. Woodville Union Elementary School District.	
v. Corning Union Elementary School District.	
vi. Wheatland Union High School District.	
4. Huntington Beach Energy Project - 12-AFC-02C.	15
5. Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program - 22-RENEW-01	21
6. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).	49
7. GILLIG, LLC.	62
a. CEQA.	
b. Zero-Emission Bus Manufacturing Ramp-Up in the State of California.	
8. Assessing the Role of Hydrogen in California's Decarbonizing Electric System - GFO-22-304.	73
a. RAND Corporation.	
b. Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc.	

I N D E X (Cont.)

	Page
9. Advancing Window Retrofits and Reducing Fireplace Air Leaks to Improve Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings - GFO-22-501.	79
a. Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.	
b. DNV Energy Insights USA Inc.	
c. Institute of Gas Technology d.b.a. GTI Energy (GTI Energy).	
10. Advancing Environmental Monitoring Technologies for Floating Offshore Wind - GFO-22-401.	88
a. Integral Consulting Inc.	
b. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.	
c. Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation.	
11. Advancing Designs for Floating Offshore Wind Mooring Lines and Anchors - GFO-22-402.	100
a. University of Maine System Acting Through the University of Maine (University of Maine).	
b. RCAM Technologies, Inc.	
c. Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.	
12. Minutes.	111
13. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports	112
14. Executive Director's Report.	129

I N D E X (Cont.)

	Page
15. Public Advisor's Report	129
16. Chief Counsel's Report	129
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:	
i. <i>Interlink Products International, Inc. v.            Xavier Becerra, Drew Bohan, Melissa Rae King            (United States District Court for the Eastern            District of California, Case No. 2:20-cv-02283)</i>	
Adjournment	130
Reporter's Certificate	131
Transcriber's Certificate	132

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JULY 26, 2023

10:00 a.m.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Good morning, everyone.  
4 My name is Andrew McAllister, a Commissioner here at the  
5 California Energy Commission. Today is July 26, 2023, and  
6 I call this meeting to order. Joining me are Commissioners  
7 Monahan and Gallardo. Chair Hochschild and Vice Chair  
8 Gunda are absent, but we do have a quorum.

9 First, let us stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

10 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We will first take  
12 public comment and then move on to agency announcements.  
13 Our Public Advisor will provide instructions for public  
14 comment.

15 MS. BADIE: Good morning. This is Mona Badie,  
16 the Energy Commission's Public Advisor. The Commission  
17 welcomes public comment at its business meetings. There  
18 will be multiple opportunities to make comments today.  
19 This initial public comment period is for any item  
20 including informational or non-voting items on the agenda.  
21 If you want to comment on a voting item, we ask that you  
22 wait for the dedicated public comment period for that item  
23 to make your comment.

24 Now for a few instructions. If you're in the

1 room, we ask that you use the QR code to notify us you'd  
2 like to make a comment. They are posted around the room.  
3 If you're on Zoom, we ask that you use the raise hand  
4 feature on your screen if you're online. And if you're  
5 joining by phone, press \*9 to raise your hand.

6 I'm going to do a quick check. Okay, we have one  
7 raised hand on Zoom, Nikola Lakic. I'm going to open your  
8 line. Please spell your name for the record and any  
9 affiliation that you have, and you may begin. We do ask  
10 that comments be limited to two minutes or less.

11 MR. LAKIC: Hello, can you hear me?

12 MS. BADIE: Yes.

13 MR. LAKIC: Yeah, thank you. Thank you very much  
14 for this opportunity to say a few words. My name is Nikola  
15 Lakic. I'm a graduate engineer architect. I make quite a  
16 few common statements in many years actually on -- I would  
17 like to emphasize again the meeting in Calexico a month  
18 ago. And I said a few words, I made a public comment, and  
19 I'd like to emphasize a few things. That there is a little  
20 bit of a problem in the process for funding.

21 I'm proposing that California Natural Resources  
22 Agency and California Energy Commission and EPA get  
23 together somehow and make some mechanisms and committees,  
24 and commission that will take care of our Salton Sea.  
25 Something similar, like Salton Sea Authority, but this time

1 functional. I'm sorry to say, but the Salton Sea Authority  
2 does not function at this time. They openly are against  
3 restoring the Salton Sea. That's documented, that's in  
4 record.

5           The thing is I'm author of several proposals -- I  
6 mean, I'm author of the proposal for the restoration of the  
7 Salton Sea that includes several breakthrough technologies,  
8 including geothermal. And the subject at this time, it  
9 looks like it is funding for geothermal and solar, also  
10 solar, and also hydro energy. It's something that has to  
11 be united.

12           I understand everybody is pushing for their  
13 projects, and the government is pretty much generous. But  
14 it is missing that unity and missing architectural planning  
15 and to be following it. And my proposal is under review by  
16 the US Army Corps of Engineers at this very moment. I  
17 don't know where they stand yet on that. But look, I am an  
18 engineer. I worked on this 10 years. I have over 40  
19 patents on this subject. I know if something works or not  
20 and those who challenge it, talk to me.

21           MS. BADIE: Nikola, if you could please wrap up  
22 your comment.

23           MR. LAKIC: Oh, my time expires. I'm sorry.  
24 Okay. Well maybe later on I will continue a few things  
25 just to clarify, but thank you very much for this

1 opportunity.

2 MS. BADIE: No more comments. Back to you,  
3 Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. Well,  
5 thank you, Public Advisor.

6 So moving to Item 2, Agency Announcements.  
7 Today, the Commission seeks to approve over 55 million in  
8 investments contributing to our state's economy. Any  
9 Commissioner discussion for Item 2, Agency Announcements?  
10 Hearing none, seeing none, so we will move on.

11 Yeah, okay. Commissioner Gallardo, go ahead.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Buenos Dias, good  
13 morning. This is Commissioner Gallardo. I just wanted to  
14 inform you that I will not be attending the next business  
15 meeting. So I know there's some really important items on  
16 that agenda, but I had planned a vacation to celebrate my  
17 10-year anniversary with my partner. So that's the only  
18 reason why I'm missing it. It's the first meeting I'm  
19 missing, so I feel bad about it but I wanted to let folks  
20 know why I'll be out.

21 And just for fun, we commemorated our 10-year  
22 anniversary with a tattoo, so I have my first tattoo.  
23 (Laughter.) Anyway so I just wanted to share with my CEC  
24 family what's going on, also the public on why I won't be  
25 there.

1           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, well that's great.  
2 Well, priorities. Tattoos and partnership, that's great.  
3 So we'll give you a pass on that one and appreciate that  
4 announcement.

5           So without further ado, moving on to Item 3.  
6 This is the Consent Calendar. Before we move to public  
7 comment, I'd like to note for the record that the  
8 individual ECCA loan amounts under Item 3h are accurate.  
9 But the record should reflect that the total amount for all  
10 six loans should be 11,967,769 instead of the number  
11 listed, 10,077,989. So that correction should be noted for  
12 the record.

13           Is there any public comment on the Consent?

14           MS. BADIE: Hello again, this is Mona Badie, the  
15 Public Advisor. If you'd like to make a public comment on  
16 Item 3, we ask that you use the QR code. If you're on the  
17 room, if you're on Zoom, please use the raise hand feature.  
18 And if you're on the phone, please press \*9.

19           Doing a quick check. Okay, I'm not seeing anyone  
20 for Item 3. Back to you.

21           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. Thank  
22 you.

23           So we are going to have a slight change in the  
24 voting here on the Consent. Oh --

25           MS. BARRERA: Excuse me, Chair, if I have a

1 minute.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Go ahead, Chief Counsel  
3 Barrera.

4 MS. BARRERA: This is for Commissioner Monahan.  
5 Commissioner Monahan, I looked again at that Item 3f, and I  
6 talked to our conflict of interest attorney and you  
7 actually can go ahead and vote on that item. We did do the  
8 conflict of interest check, so you can go ahead and just  
9 vote on the item.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great.

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: So I do not have a  
12 conflict of interest for that one?

13 MS. GALLARDO: Yeah. You do not need to recuse  
14 yourself.

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great.

17 MS. BADIE: Sorry, I -- Commissioner. There was  
18 one comment for Item 3 that I missed.

19 COMMISSINOER MCALLISTER: Okay.

20 MS. BADIE: If that's okay, we can go back to  
21 public comments.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, go ahead with  
23 public comment. Thank you, Madam Public Advisor.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you. We have Jon Trujillo in  
25 person. Hi, John. Please turn on the mic and spell your

1 name for the record, and you may begin.

2 MR. TRUJILLO: Sure thing. Jon, J-O-N, Trujillo,  
3 T-R-U-J-I-L-L-O. Good morning, Buenos Dias.

4 I am here representing BHE Renewables, the parent  
5 that sends over submitted applications for 3b, c, and d,  
6 the Blackrock, Elmore North and Moreton Bay geothermal  
7 projects. And I just wanted to thank the Commission for  
8 the consideration today on data adequacy, as well, and I'd  
9 say almost more so, the staff for their continued  
10 (indiscernible). Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks for your  
12 comment.

13 With that so it appears we do not have a change  
14 to the voting on Item 3. We do not have any conflict of  
15 interest from any Commissioner. So let's -- do I hear a  
16 motion on Item 3, Consent Calendar?

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 3.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All those in favor say  
20 aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, I guess we need a  
23 call out, sorry. Sorry, we're running on inexperience  
24 here.

25 Commissioner Monahan.

1 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Gallardo.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.

5 So Item 3 passes, 3-0.

6 Moving on to Item 4, Huntington Beach Energy  
7 Project. I welcome Joseph Douglas to present.

8 MR. DOUGLAS: Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair,  
9 and Commissioners. My name is Joseph Douglas. I am a  
10 Compliance Project Manager in the Compliance Monitoring &  
11 Enforcement Unit of the Safety & Reliability Branch of the  
12 Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection  
13 Division. With me this morning is Acting Engineering  
14 Branch Manager, Joseph Hughes; Air Resources Engineer  
15 Andres Perez, and Lead Counsel, Tanner Kelsey.

16 I am here to present on the Huntington Beach  
17 Energy Project's petition to amend their final Decision to  
18 increase the annual combined cycle gas turbine operating  
19 hours.

20 It is important to note that the proposed  
21 Department of Water Resources strategic reliability reserve  
22 implementation plan that includes contracting with the  
23 adjacent Huntington Beach Generating Station's once-through  
24 cooling facility is not part of this petition, and its  
25 operational jurisdiction is under the California Public

1 Utilities Commission. Next slide, please.

2 The current petition requests that the CEC  
3 approve an increase of 1,000 hours to the existing annual  
4 operating hours of the facility from 6,640 hours per year  
5 to 7,640 hours per year.

6 The proposed changes will help to meet the  
7 projected increased electrical demand in the Los Angeles  
8 Basin with the most efficient delivery of non-renewable  
9 energy. Next slide, please.

10 The Huntington Beach Energy Project is a 644-  
11 megawatt combined-cycle power plant located in Orange  
12 County. The power plant was certified by the CEC in May  
13 2017 as an 844-megawatt power plant project, with a 644-  
14 megawatt combined-cycle, natural gas-fired power block, and  
15 two simple cycle gas-fired turbines that would produce 200  
16 megawatts. To date, the simple cycle turbines have not  
17 been built, but the combined cycle power plant began  
18 operation in June of 2020.

19 In December 2021, the owner filed an application  
20 with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to  
21 modify the air district's operating permit to increase the  
22 annual operating hours of the power plant and amend  
23 relevant permit conditions to reflect the change.

24 On March 14th, 2023, the Air District provided  
25 evaluations and proposed operating permits incorporating

1 the proposed changes for review.

2 CEC staff incorporated the Air District's  
3 evaluations in its final environmental analysis, which was  
4 docketed on June 12th, 2023. And an errata was posted on  
5 July 10, 2023 to correct an administrative error in the AQ-  
6 1 condition of certification. To date, no comments have  
7 been received.

8 As discussed in the final environmental analysis,  
9 there are no proposed changes to any short-term emission  
10 limits. The proposed petition would only increase annual  
11 base load operations and associated emissions. The  
12 increase in annual emissions will be mitigated using the  
13 Regional Clean Air Incentives Market or RECLAIM, Trading  
14 Credits and the Air District's internal offset program.  
15 Next slide, please.

16 This concludes our presentation, and we request  
17 your approval of the Order to modify the existing Air  
18 Quality Conditions of Certification and allow an increase  
19 in annual operation to support grid reliability. Thank  
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you, Mr. Douglas.  
22 Do we have any public comment on this item?

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you. This is Mona Badie, the  
24 Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment  
25 on Item 4. If you are in the room please use the QR code

17

1 to notify if you'd like to make a comment. And if you're  
2 on Zoom, you can use the raise hand feature. And if  
3 joining us by phone, please press \*9 to raise your hand.  
4 And again this is for Item 4.

5 I'm not seeing any comments in the room or on  
6 Zoom. Oh sorry, I see one raised hand. Nikola Lakic, I'm  
7 going to unmute your line. Please state your name and your  
8 affiliation for the record. And we ask that comments be  
9 limited to two minutes.

10 MR. LAKIC: My name is Nikola Lakic. I am with  
11 Geothermal Worldwide. I would like just to add that all  
12 those problems with air and improvements if we are  
13 synchronized -- if you're synchronized, if we really follow  
14 architectural planning we would not have these kinds of  
15 problems.

16 And I might comment later on again to emphasize  
17 the importance of the acceptance of the master plan for the  
18 restoration of the Salton Sea, which includes many  
19 geothermal power plants and solar power plants and  
20 hydropower plants. So we will be dealing with clean air,  
21 with clean water, and all those things. But again, this is  
22 small projects. It's missing unity. It's missing some  
23 Authority to put together all those projects and that's  
24 what I'm trying to emphasize.

25 But again, I just want to mention -- because the

1 gentleman asking for money for some projects it would have  
2 be synchronized. But again, I yield my time. So thank you  
3 very much for the opportunity (indiscernible). Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

5 There are no further comments. Back to you,  
6 Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Thank you, Madam  
8 Public Advisor.

9 Any Commissioner comments?

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah, please.  
12 Commissioner Gallardo.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you. Joseph, thank  
14 you so much for a wonderful presentation. I wondered if  
15 you could clarify whether this Huntington Beach project is  
16 associated with the DWR Investment Plan that we talked  
17 about in a prior business meeting, and that might be on the  
18 agenda coming up for the next meeting?

19 MR. DOUGLAS: You're speaking of the NG project  
20 or the generating station?

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: The station.

22 MR. DOUGLAS: I'm not aware of that. And I might  
23 defer to the Project Owner, because they have more  
24 information.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: My understanding of --

1 maybe I'll just jump in -- my understanding is we're  
2 talking about it. So Elizabeth, if you want to chime in  
3 that'd be great.

4 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, I think there were  
5 some questions, confusion of whether it was related. So  
6 any clarification I think would be helpful for the public.  
7 (Indiscernible)

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yeah. Go ahead.

9 MS. HUBER: Oh, absolutely. So for the record my  
10 name is Elizabeth Huber. I'm the Director of the Siting,  
11 Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division. And  
12 so as you know we have jurisdiction over two of the AES  
13 Huntington Beach power plants. But the one that you are  
14 asking about, which is a once-through cooling facility that  
15 was built in the 1960s is not in our jurisdiction and is  
16 not part of this project in front of you this morning.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Elizabeth,  
18 very helpful.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: No other comments?

20 I'll just jump in. I was on a committee for the  
21 new plant on Huntington Beach. And I think that's what  
22 we're talking about, the one that was recently built and  
23 commissioned and is under operation and not the old one  
24 that is under now DWR. So, with that I'd ask for a motion  
25 for this item.

1           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, this is  
2 Commissioner Gallardo again. So just to clarify, this will  
3 have a minimal environmental impact. There's mitigations  
4 in place. So I do support the petition to modify the  
5 Huntington Beach power plants air quality conditions of  
6 their Energy Commission license, just to clarify.

7           So I moved to approve Item number 4.

8           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

9           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right. Now we'll  
10 go to the vote. Commissioner Gallardo.

11          COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

12          COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

13          COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

14          COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
15 well. This motion passes 3-0. Thank you, Joseph.

16          Move on to Item 5. Okay, Item 5 Demand Side Grid  
17 Support, DSGS Program. And I'll invite Ashley Emery to  
18 present. Ashley.

19          MS. EMERY: Good morning, Commissioners. My name  
20 is Ashley Emery, and I am the Manager of the Reliability  
21 Reserve Incentives Branch, which is implementing two  
22 programs under the Strategic Reliability Reserve  
23 established in last year's budget.

24          With me is Lisa DeCarlo and Kari Anderson from  
25 the Chief Counsel's Office; and my colleague, Erik Lyon, to

21

1 help respond to any questions.

2 Today we are proposing the modified guidelines  
3 for the Demand Side Grid Support Program, also known by the  
4 acronym DSGS, for your consideration for approval. Next  
5 slide, please.

6 The effects of climate change including extreme  
7 heat, drought, and wildfires, coupled with supply chain  
8 delays, have challenged the state's ability to plan and  
9 maintain grid reliability.

10 So, as part of last year's budget, through the  
11 passage of AB 205, the Legislature and Governor created a  
12 Strategic Reliability Reserve to help meet our emergency  
13 grid needs outside of our normal planning standards.

14 The Strategic Reliability Reserve provides for  
15 the creation and funding of multiple programs designed to  
16 address energy reliability over the next several years,  
17 including the DSGS Program and the Distributed Electricity  
18 Backup Assets, or DEBA program.

19 The DSGS and DEBA programs serve as complementary  
20 programs to help meet grid needs during extreme events.

21 DEBA incentivizes the purchase of cleaner and  
22 more efficient distributed energy assets that will serve as  
23 on-call emergency supply or load reduction during extreme  
24 events, whereas DSGS incentivizes the use of load reduction  
25 resources during extreme events. Next slide, please.

1           As part of the Strategic Reliability Reserve, the  
2 DSGS Program serves as one of the state's tools in  
3 responding to unplanned extreme events taxing California's  
4 electrical grid.

5           As established by AB 205, the program seeks to  
6 achieve the following goals: Support grid reliability by  
7 enhancing load capacity during extreme events, increase  
8 visibility into resource capacity, and prioritize dispatch  
9 of clean resources in times of need.

10           These goals benefit Californians by supporting  
11 the reliability of our electrical grid providing  
12 electricity to all Californians including our most  
13 vulnerable. Next slide, please.

14           AB 205 was signed at the end of June 2022, and at  
15 our August 10th Business Meeting, the CEC approved the  
16 first edition of the DSGS Program guidelines launching the  
17 first phase of the DSGS Program.

18           The first provider application was approved on  
19 August 31st, the first day of the September heatwave.  
20 Assembly Bill 209 also passed during this time, providing  
21 for the DSGS Program to customers in investor owned utility  
22 territories, as AB 205 originally limited the program to  
23 publicly owned utility territory.

24           We worked hard to meet grid needs during the  
25 September heat event, ultimately enrolling 315 megawatts to

1 be available during the extreme event. Resources were  
2 predominantly backup generation resources, but also  
3 included some demand response with the help from water  
4 agencies, universities, and other commercial customers.  
5 Next slide, please.

6 This year we have been working closely with a  
7 wide array of stakeholders to identify lessons learned from  
8 program implementation last year. We organized and  
9 facilitated a workshop in January to get initial feedback  
10 from stakeholders on summer 2022 implementation. And based  
11 on that initial feedback, staff prepared draft modified  
12 guidelines that were released for public comment and  
13 discussed at a workshop in April.

14 We were very responsive to the extensive feedback  
15 received from stakeholders, and so staff prepared revised  
16 draft modified guidelines that were released for public  
17 comment in June. The final proposed guidelines were posted  
18 on July 21st ahead of today's business meeting. And if the  
19 Energy Commission approves the guidelines, staff will  
20 immediately launch phase 2 of the program's implementation.  
21 Next slide, please.

22 There were many lessons learned from our summer  
23 2022 launch and areas for strategic growth, which staff has  
24 been working closely with stakeholders to incorporate into  
25 revised guidelines.

1           Staff recognizes the need to grow participation  
2 from cleaner resources and that the program needs  
3 flexibility to respond to unanticipated emergency events.  
4 And given the speed at which we launched this program, our  
5 administrative processes and communication were manual and  
6 can be improved.

7           Additionally, the California ISO and California's  
8 other balancing authorities and host utilities need  
9 visibility into the anticipated load reduction. Next  
10 slide, please.

11           To that end, the proposed modified guidelines  
12 seek to bring on more clean resources with expanded  
13 participation and streamlined processes. To help bring on  
14 more cleaner resources, the proposed modified guidelines  
15 dispatch cleaner resources earlier and expand participation  
16 for cleaner resources with a new market-integrated demand  
17 response incentive pilot, and a new market-aware battery  
18 storage incentive pilot.

19           To limit the runtime of backup generators used in  
20 the program, the guidelines also propose a new one-time  
21 bonus incentive for remote controllable generation. To  
22 expand and streamline participation, we are proposing  
23 several changes.

24           Consistent with AB 209, the proposed guidelines  
25 expand eligibility to certain IOU customers. As I

1 mentioned previously, the program was initially -- after  
2 the program was initially authorized, AB 209 expanded DSGS  
3 eligibility to IOU territory with the requirement that  
4 customers cannot be dual enrolled in similar programs.

5 CEC staff collaborated with colleagues at the  
6 CPUC to identify specific use cases to target, with the  
7 goal of bringing on cleaner resources, without  
8 unintentional negative impacts to programs under the CPUC  
9 jurisdiction.

10 To that end, the proposed guidelines expand  
11 eligibility to customers participating with backup  
12 generators; water agencies, which include water utilities,  
13 wastewater facilities, and irrigation districts; and  
14 customers participating in our newly proposed incentive  
15 pilots.

16 The proposed guidelines also incorporate  
17 aggregators as DSGS providers and allow for direct customer  
18 enrollment in limited circumstances to help streamline the  
19 process for participation.

20 Separate from the guideline process, we have also  
21 contracted with Olivine Inc. as a third-party administrator  
22 to help streamline and modernize our processes. Next  
23 slide, please.

24 The proposed guidelines include three incentive  
25 options. The first is an energy and standby payment option

1 that is dispatched based on energy emergency alerts. This  
2 option was available last summer and had 315 megawatts  
3 enrolled. The guidelines include clarifying changes to  
4 this incentive option, but the main structure and incentive  
5 amount remains the same.

6 To help grow participation for clean resources,  
7 the proposed modified guidelines also include two new  
8 capacity-based incentive pilots. The capacity valuation  
9 methods differ between the two options to reflect important  
10 differences in the resource types, but the one shared  
11 characteristic is in that both cases we are offering  
12 financial incentives for what we call "demonstrated  
13 capacity." There is no upfront capacity payment.  
14 Incentives are paid per megawatt after an evaluation of  
15 performance.

16 The first pilot is for incremental market-  
17 integrated demand response, where the incentives would be  
18 provided based on demonstrated capacity that is incremental  
19 to existing resource adequacy commitments.

20 The second is for market-aware behind-the-meter  
21 battery storage. We are calling this a market-aware  
22 pathway, because events are defined by California ISO  
23 wholesale market prices but are not actually bid into the  
24 market. Next slide, please.

25 Load reduction resources enrolled in Incentive

1 Option 1 are dispatched based on Energy Emergency Alerts,  
2 or EEAs, which are defined in the North American Electric  
3 Reliability Corporation's Reliability Standard.

4           When a balancing authority issues an EEA 1, it is  
5 experiencing conditions where all available generation  
6 resources are committed to meet firm load, firm  
7 transactions, and reserve commitments, and is concerned  
8 about sustaining its required contingency reserves. A  
9 balancing authority issues an EEA 2 when it is no longer  
10 able to provide its expected energy requirements and is  
11 energy deficient. And an energy deficient balancing  
12 authority issues an EEA 3 when it is unable to meet minimum  
13 contingency reserve requirements.

14           An EEA Watch is another alert used only by the  
15 California ISO and is issued when the ISO's analysis shows  
16 all available resources are committed or forecasted to be  
17 in use, and energy deficiencies are expected.

18           To bring on cleaner resources earlier, the  
19 proposed guidelines dispatch non-combustion resources at an  
20 EEA Watch level rather than an EEA 1.

21           The program will continue to dispatch combustion  
22 resources at an EEA 2 level, but to be able to accommodate  
23 unanticipated needs, the proposed guidelines enable  
24 combustion resources to dispatch at a lower EEA level if  
25 authorized by an Executive Order from the Governor. Next

1 slide, please.

2 This process has truly been a team effort. And I  
3 would like to thank staff from the Chief Counsel's Office,  
4 and the advisors from Vice Chair Gunda's Office for their  
5 contributions and guidance. And I would also like to  
6 recognize and thank all of the stakeholders that have  
7 participated in this process.

8 The staff recommends the Energy Commission  
9 approve the Second Edition of the Demand Side Grid Support  
10 Program Guidelines and adopt staff's determination that  
11 adoption of these guidelines is exempt from CEQA.

12 This concludes the staff's presentation, and I am  
13 available to answer any questions you may have.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you very much,  
15 Ashley. I appreciate that presentation, well done.

16 Madam Public Advisor, do we have any public  
17 comment?

18 MS. BADIE: Good morning. This is Mona Badie  
19 again, the Public Advisor for the Energy Commission. We  
20 will now take public comment on Item 5.

21 If you're in the room we ask that you use the QR  
22 code. And if you're on Zoom online, use the raise hand  
23 feature on your screen. And if you're joining by phone,  
24 please press \*9 to notify us you'd like to make a comment.

25 We're going to go to folks in the room first.

1 I'm going to call your name and then please approach the  
2 podium. Make sure the green light is on for the mic, and  
3 state and spell your name for the record and any  
4 affiliation. Grace Pratt, you can approach the podium.

5 MS. PRATT: Okay, thank you. Sorry. Hi,  
6 Commissioners. My name is Grace Pratt, G-R-A-C-E P-R-A-T-  
7 T, and I am here on behalf of Sunrun, the largest  
8 residential solar and storage provider in California and  
9 the US.

10 We are here firstly to thank staff for all their  
11 hard work, Ashley, Erik and others. It's been a true  
12 pleasure to collaborate with them. And we are really  
13 excited to see the CEC embrace new demand response models  
14 to unlock particularly the power of virtual power plants  
15 through option 3, the market aware option.

16 We also really appreciate that CEC will be  
17 crediting full season participation in 2023, given that we  
18 are in July. However, we are concerned that the current  
19 option through payment levels do not reflect current market  
20 conditions or align with other successful grid services  
21 programs. In our written comments which we've submitted to  
22 the docket, we've outlined the compensation levels that we  
23 believe reflect the true costs of participating in the  
24 program and those levels that would encourage customers to  
25 participate.

1           So we hope that the CEC will be able to revisit  
2 compensation levels as soon as possible. But generally, we  
3 do really thank the CEC for all their hard work and are  
4 excited to see these program guidelines get passed today.  
5 Thank you.

6           MS. BADIE: Thank you. Next, we have Meredith  
7 Alexander. Meredith, when you approach the podium, can you  
8 please spell your name for the record and state any  
9 affiliation before beginning?

10           MS. ALEXANDER: Meredith, M-E-R-E-D-I-T-H,  
11 Alexander, A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R. I'm with Hua Nani Partners  
12 on behalf of Generac Power Systems.

13           Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you again for  
14 the opportunity to comment on the DSGS modified guidelines,  
15 and for all the work done by the staff on program  
16 development. Generac really appreciates the significant  
17 work and creativity that staff has put into this program  
18 and the thoughtful incorporation of our feedback that are  
19 reflected in the guidelines you're voting on today.  
20 California will be in a stronger position in future grid  
21 emergencies, because of the steps taken here to unlock  
22 distributed energy resources as a key emergency response  
23 solution.

24           Our comments on the proposed guidelines this year  
25 include calls for program enhancements to Option 1,

1 including expanding eligibility to all IOU customers  
2 including residential customers. Streamlining Option 2 to  
3 ensure greater ability to predict the revenue, and  
4 increased compensation under Option 1 and 3.

5           We see many of our recommendations reflected in  
6 the final guidelines. And although our comments supported  
7 making additional improvements to DSGS implementation,  
8 Generac is pleased to support the program as it has been  
9 much improved over the course of this process. And we look  
10 forward to enrolling our diverse commercial and residential  
11 customers and DSGS immediately to support the grid this  
12 summer. Your staff has been extremely responsive to our  
13 questions and suggestions.

14           As the CEC implements this new program, we do  
15 urge you to continue working with stakeholders to evolve it  
16 following this summer's experience and outcomes. The full  
17 potential to ensure grid reliability and resiliency could  
18 be realized next summer with continued expansion and  
19 consideration of initial program results and stakeholder  
20 feedback and ideas.

21           We look forward to continued engagement with the  
22 CEC to expand the ability of the DERs to support  
23 California's grid and prevent future grid emergencies.  
24 Thank you again for your time.

25           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

1           Next in the room, we have Erik Lyon.

2           MR. LYON: Hello, my name is Erik Lyon, E-R-I-K  
3 L-Y-O-N, Advisor to Vice Chair Gunda here at the California  
4 Energy Commission. We're doing something a little  
5 different here today.

6           I've been working closely with the staff team on  
7 the DSGS Program development and guidelines. And I would  
8 like to read the following statement by the Vice Chair,  
9 because he is unable to attend.

10           "I'm writing to communicate my support for the  
11 demand side grid support guidelines considered in today's  
12 business meeting. I would like to start by giving a huge  
13 thanks to the DSGS Program team in the Reliability,  
14 Renewable and Decarbonization Incentives Division as well  
15 as the Chief Counsel's Office including Deana Carrillo,  
16 Ashley Emery, Payam Narvand, Guadalupe Corona and Erik  
17 Lyon; as well as our colleagues from the CPUC and the  
18 California ISO for collaborating with us and supporting our  
19 efforts.

20           "Maintaining electric system reliability is of  
21 critical importance as California transitions to a clean  
22 energy future. Demand flexibility has a vital role to play  
23 in contributing to grid reliability and reducing both  
24 greenhouse gas emissions and local pollution.

25           "Last summer, DSGS was stood up in record time

1 and provided hundreds of megawatts in support during the  
2 historic September heat wave. While these generators were  
3 critical to maintaining reliability last summer, it is  
4 essential that the state expand opportunities for clean  
5 demand flexibility resources moving forward.

6 "With the guidelines considered for adoption  
7 today, we are planning to pilot new programs to increase  
8 the impacts of our existing supply side demand response  
9 resources and to allow behind- the-meter batteries to  
10 participate in a new way that maximizes their contribution  
11 to reliability. Following adoption of the updated DSGS  
12 guidelines, these resources can begin participating very  
13 shortly and will contribute to reliability without  
14 increasing pollution over the coming years. Our goal is  
15 for these new classes of resources to reduce the reliance  
16 on polluting backup generators.

17 "DSGS, and its sister program, the Distributed  
18 Electricity Backup Assets Program, represent a downpayment  
19 towards meeting our state's load flexibility goal of 7,000  
20 megawatts by 2030. The new DSGS guidelines represent an  
21 enormous opportunity to contribute to reliability with  
22 clean resources in the short term and to test new policies  
23 to support those resources in the long term.

24 "I encourage the CEC Commissioners attending  
25 today's meeting to vote to adopt the DSGS guidelines.

1 Thank you."

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks, Erik.

3 Any other comments?

4 MS. BADIE: Okay, we'll now move to Zoom. And  
5 this is the time for public comment for Item 5, the DSGS  
6 Program. I'll go to raised hands online. Nikola Lakic,  
7 I'm going to open your line. Please announce your name and  
8 affiliation and limit your comments to two minutes.

9 MR. LAKIC: Hello again. On Item 5, it's a side  
10 grid support -- and we are talking about clean resources.  
11 That's great. I just want to remind the Commissioners and  
12 all stakeholders that my system for harnessing solar  
13 energy, which I'm using into my architectural plan for  
14 restoration of the Salton Sea, can be used from San Diego  
15 to Vancouver, to all coastal cities. And taking salty  
16 water using solar energy, producing electricity and  
17 byproduct -- free byproducts, potable water, and  
18 concentrated brine that can be collected and used for  
19 extraction of lithium.

20 So the same system that I'm using for proposing  
21 for Salton Sea also can have many, many different  
22 applications. And again, it is reducing a greenhouse  
23 effect. It's not combustion at all. It's just a steam.  
24 Its system is several times more powerful than  
25 photovoltaic, so little bit thicker panels.

35

1           And again, I just want to let Commissioners know  
2 that that exists. And it's again -- I'm emphasizing the  
3 importance of accepting my proposal for the restoration of  
4 the Salton Sea, because it has huge purpose and many  
5 applications on different locations. And again, I see  
6 there is 20 seconds. But thank you very much.

7           On this item I will maybe comment something. I'm  
8 saying this, because I doubt that any of you studied my  
9 work. It's a comprehensive design that needs two or three  
10 weeks of reading, and if I'm invited, well then maybe a few  
11 hours one afternoon. But that didn't happen. So I will  
12 use opportunities like these few minutes and things to say.  
13 Okay, but thank you very much for this opportunity.

14           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

15           Next, we have Kate Unger. Kate, I'm going to  
16 open your line. Please limit your comments to two minutes  
17 or less and please spell your name for the record and state  
18 any affiliation. You may begin.

19           MS. UNGER: Yes, thank you. It's Kate Unger, K-  
20 A-T-E U-N-G-E-R, with the California Solar and Storage  
21 Association. We want to thank the Energy Commission for  
22 your leadership in our efforts toward making the grid of  
23 the future clean, sustainable, reliable, and resilient.

24           The CEC has embraced an innovative approach to  
25 the Demand Side Grid Support Program by using it to develop

1 pioneering new pathways that are focused on distributed  
2 energy resources including battery energy storage. And we  
3 support approval of the guidelines second edition.

4           The future grid is going to be more distributed  
5 and networked with demand and supply both flexing to meet  
6 each other and with control dispersed across the system.  
7 Council member companies are committed to being a useful  
8 part of the future grid.

9           We submitted a proposal earlier this year for a  
10 behind-the-meter storage pathway combining DSGS and the  
11 Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program. And we were  
12 very happy that the revised guidelines included Option 3  
13 for battery virtual power plants. That option has many  
14 inventive elements, and we expect it to show that a market  
15 aware approach is viable and valuable. We also appreciate  
16 refinements to Option 1, work on Option 2, and the ability  
17 for aggregators to serve as DSGS providers.

18           We know of course that program development  
19 involves balancing many considerations and interests and we  
20 look forward to keep working together with the CEC and  
21 other parties evaluating this summer's outcomes considering  
22 program refinements for future guidelines.

23           I want to particularly recognize the CEC staff  
24 members who work long and hard on the program design. Erik  
25 Lyon was one of them, and he mentioned the others. They

1 are all a real pleasure to work with and we're grateful for  
2 their dedication to making DSGS work well.

3 Our members are really looking forward to  
4 participating, getting started this summer, working  
5 together with LSCs to make the program a success and a key  
6 part of our state strategy to create a clean and reliable  
7 energy system. Thank you.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

9 Next, we have Clark McIsaac. Clark, I'm going to  
10 open your line. Please spell your name for the record and  
11 state any affiliation. Please limit your comments to two  
12 minutes.

13 MR. MCISAAC: Good morning. My name is Clark  
14 McIsaac. That's C-L-A-R-K M-C-I-S-A-A-C. I'm with the  
15 California Efficiency and Demand Management Council.

16 I'd first like to thank the Energy Commission  
17 staff for their thoughtful and diligent efforts in crafting  
18 program improvements to better the DSGS and to expand  
19 eligibility and access to the program. The Council sees  
20 expanding program eligibility and improving participation  
21 opportunities as being not only statutory requirements, but  
22 also key aspects to the delivery of grid emissions customer  
23 and cost benefits from demand side resources through the  
24 DSGS. I'd also like to thank the Commissioners for their  
25 leadership in this effort.

1           The Council appreciates the draft revised  
2 guidelines and that they incorporate many of our  
3 recommendations, be it directly or in spirit. We also see  
4 substantial value as others have voiced so far. But in  
5 returning to the table, as soon as is reasonable and  
6 appropriate following the summer, to continue refining and  
7 improving the DSGS.

8           The Council has several specific recommendations  
9 we hope to incorporate into that process, but we'll point  
10 to our recent comments, rather than run through them here.  
11 I'll keep it short and just again, express the Council's  
12 appreciation. And we look forward to continue working to  
13 improve this program and the benefits that can be delivered  
14 towards customers across the state. Thank you.

15           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16           Next, we have Cliff Staton. Cliff, I'm going to  
17 open your line. Please state and spell your name for the  
18 record and state any affiliation you have. Please limit  
19 your comments to two minutes or less. I'm going to open  
20 your line.

21           MR. STATON: Yeah, hi. It's Cliff Staton, C-L-I-  
22 F-F, last name is S-T-A-T-O-N, and I'm the Head of  
23 Government Affairs with OhmConnect.

24           And I just, really like others, wanted to commend  
25 the Commission and especially the staff for running a

1 really open and thorough stakeholder process in developing  
2 these guidelines for the DSGS Program.

3 We see DSGS as an extremely important program to  
4 allow third-party DR to improve grid reliability. And so  
5 we just urge the Commission to approve the guidelines  
6 today, so that the program can be in place this summer to  
7 support grid reliability. So thanks.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

9 Next, we have Andrew Cole. Andrew, I'm going to  
10 open your line. Please spell your name for the record,  
11 state any affiliation, and limit your comments to two  
12 minutes or less.

13 MR. COLE: Hello, my name is Andrew Cole. That  
14 is A-N-D-R-E-W C-O-L-E. I am here speaking on behalf of  
15 Leap.

16 Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you again for  
17 the opportunity to speak this morning. I'll attempt to  
18 keep my comments brief. I'd like to start off much like  
19 many others by thanking CEC staff for the work and effort  
20 put into developing the proposed guidelines we're reviewing  
21 here today. Staff have been very responsive and sought  
22 stakeholder feedback throughout the past year for which I'm  
23 very thankful.

24 Leap is appreciative of the changes that have  
25 been implemented throughout the various iterations of the

1 guidelines and looks forward to engaging with the CEC as  
2 soon as it's appropriate on further modifications and  
3 expansion of the program for 2024.

4 Leap has been working over the past few months to  
5 be prepared to launch the DSGS Program and participate  
6 distributed energy resources for summer 2023.

7 Leap strongly encourages the Commissioners to  
8 adopt the proposed guidelines today so that we may all  
9 begin participating and providing much needed grid support  
10 this summer. Thank you.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you. That concludes public  
12 comment. Back to you, Commissioner McAllister.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great, thank you, Madam  
14 Public Advisor.

15 I wanted to open it up to Commissioner  
16 discussion, Commissioner Monahan.

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, first, I want to  
18 just heap praise on to the team. I mean, this project was  
19 -- DSGS was rolled out in record time last summer to help  
20 with the crisis that we were facing in terms of energy  
21 reliability. So first, the team stepped up in just  
22 delivering a program that actually delivered energy when we  
23 needed it last summer. And now I just love the fact that  
24 you're incorporating lessons learned and really evolving  
25 the program to -- now that we have a little more time to

1 think through what we need.

2 I actually forgot to ask you a question when you  
3 gave the briefing, so I hope this isn't coming out of left  
4 field. But I'm wondering if you can talk about your vision  
5 for the program in terms of integrating electric vehicles,  
6 whether it be through demand response or through actually  
7 providing energy back to the grid through V2G.

8 MS. EMERY: Yeah, I might ask Erik if he has any  
9 comments.

10 MR. LYON: We don't have a specific pathway for  
11 electric vehicles or V2G at this point. It's possible that  
12 they could participate. Really I mean there's a couple of  
13 different pathways they could go through. I think the most  
14 likely would be the Option 2 for demand response. At this  
15 point, that seems like the most viable pathway. You know,  
16 if folks are charging on most days to be able to manage  
17 that charging and stop charging on critical event days.

18 That said, there could be ways for them to  
19 participate through other pathways in the future. I think  
20 we're going to need to kind of dig into that one a little  
21 bit more.

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks, Erik. And thanks  
23 for your leadership role in this, and especially developing  
24 all those acronyms and titles that describe everything.

25 I would just encourage the team to use the next

1 year or so to evaluate more deeply how electric  
2 transportation could be incorporated into DSGS. I think  
3 there's a lot of opportunity, a lot of obstacles as well.  
4 But it's worth thinking through in these early days, so  
5 that as we get more and more electric vehicles on the grid,  
6 we already have a program kind of ready for that.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you,  
8 Commissioner.

9 Commissioner Gallardo.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I also want to  
11 congratulate both Vice Chair Gunda and Deana Carrillo, for  
12 their leadership on this program, and their teamwork. And  
13 Ashley, you did a fantastic job presenting, giving us a lot  
14 of information here.

15 I do have a few questions. My first one is, and  
16 I apologize, I'm trying to wrap my head around how it all  
17 works. But one of the things that is standing out is who  
18 does the alerts go to when those EEA, you know, EEA 1, 2,  
19 whatever, who are they going to? What's the audience?

20 MS. EMERY: So the California ISO's energy  
21 emergency alerts. You can download an app on your phone.  
22 You can sign up for emails, it's anyone can do that. But  
23 we do have our third-party administrator, Olivine,  
24 monitoring that as well. And so when we learn of those  
25 alerts then we would send out emails or text messages,

1 depending on how they signed up, to our direct participants  
2 and the providers so that they can know when to dispatch.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, thank you for that  
4 clarification, so it's voluntary. So if you've volunteered  
5 to sign up, then you're getting them. But if not, then  
6 you're not aware. I would love for us to get to a point  
7 where everybody could be aware of what the situation is,  
8 and to be able to have that opportunity to take  
9 responsibility and help out as needed. Okay.

10 And then the other thing is I also appreciate how  
11 much you worked with the public and participants of the  
12 program to improve the program and taking all that into the  
13 guidelines. And I'm curious, because I did hear a question  
14 from Sunrun about revisiting compensation for Option 3.  
15 I'm wondering if you have a plan for assessing again, the  
16 program. And I apologize if I missed that. But I would  
17 appreciate hearing more about that.

18 MS. EMERY: Yes, it is in the guidelines that we  
19 will revisit after the end of this season to determine  
20 effectiveness and determine what changes might be needed.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay. And what's the end  
22 of the season?

23 MS. EMERY: It goes through October 31st.

24 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: October 31st, okay.  
25 Great. That's wonderful. So I think it's a great example

1 of how public agencies, how we're serving Californians, and  
2 then enabling Californians to work with us to make things  
3 better. And so I'm really proud of this program. Thank  
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you,  
6 Commissioner. I also wanted to heap on the praise. I did  
7 have a question first for you, Ashley. Just building on a  
8 little bit the last question from Commissioner Gallardo.  
9 Could you describe sort of the guidelines update process?  
10 And we were hearing sort of, "It's great, but we'd like to  
11 see this or that direction." And just there is a formal  
12 process and could you just sort of walk us through what  
13 that looks like?

14 MS. EMERY: Yeah. So after we went through last  
15 summer, we started processing reimbursements for the  
16 incentives. We were already getting informal feedback from  
17 stakeholders and getting a general idea of lessons learned.  
18 And so in January, we held our first public workshop to  
19 just get initial thoughts and feedback on potential  
20 changes. What went well, what didn't, last year. And we  
21 knew launching phase one there were goals that we had such  
22 as incorporating aggregators and DSGS providers, expanding  
23 participation options for the clean resources.

24 We just didn't have time to think those through  
25 and so that was another thing that we sought feedback on.

45

1 So we held the workshop and written comment period to get  
2 some initial feedback. From there we drafted some revised  
3 mock guidelines that went out in April for a public comment  
4 period, and we held a workshop on those as well. And so we  
5 took into that feedback, and prepared a second draft  
6 modified guidelines that went out again for public  
7 comments. And so we took in that public comment and have  
8 the final guidelines before you.

9 But even then we also were reaching out to  
10 stakeholders with questions, and just making sure that  
11 we're diving in, understanding the comments and needs. And  
12 so yeah, it was a very iterative process.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So going forward, you  
14 anticipate doing something similar --

15 MS. EMERY: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: -- as the pilots unfold  
17 and we get real, more experience with that? Okay, great.

18 MS. EMERY: Absolutely.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great, well, thanks.  
20 Thanks for that detail. I just want to reiterate the  
21 thanks to the team. And certainly to the commenters as  
22 well for your engagement and your comments today, really  
23 appreciate that, that positive feedback and suggestions for  
24 how we can keep improving the program.

25 I want to just really acknowledge leadership of

1 Vice Chair Gunda on this, and Deana Carrillo, leading the  
2 Division. Just that the openness to new ideas and  
3 innovation just comes from the top, so I really, really  
4 appreciate that.

5           This is a big deal. We need all the resources we  
6 can get. Last summer we got a few hundred megawatts, which  
7 is great, but the potential is so much more. And we've  
8 seen that with some of the same team, and with Erik's  
9 leadership as well on the development of the load flex  
10 goal, 7,000 megawatts by 2030. So these programs are going  
11 to really inform what that -- the pathway to that much  
12 larger goal looks like.

13           And so I think there's just so much value in  
14 bringing technology, bringing market awareness. And the  
15 market aware and market informed pilots, I think are going  
16 to really define the pathway forward for a lot of great  
17 resources. And just the behind-the-meter engagement, the  
18 potential for lots of different distributed energy  
19 approaches, really excited about that and seeing where it  
20 goes.

21           I wanted to also point out that the Commission is  
22 doing a lot of sort of infrastructure building and platform  
23 building for these kinds of efforts, load management  
24 standards, which is not exactly sort of dispatchable DR as  
25 much, but is more sort of permanent load shifting

1 approaches, the flexible demand appliance standards. We  
2 can have millions of appliances out there in a few years  
3 that have native load flexibility that can be called under  
4 one of these programs. For example, behind-the-meter not  
5 just batteries.

6           So I think I just would also highlight yesterday  
7 we had an EEA Watch. And it was cleared at the end of the  
8 evening, but we are in the middle of summer. And we really  
9 need these resources quickly. So I just want to highlight  
10 the engagement of all of our staff, and really the whole  
11 Commission, on bringing new resources to bear to really  
12 solve our critical capacity problems in these peak moments.

13           Also just, I think it's really important, Vice  
14 Chair Gunda's statement highlighted this, but the  
15 collaboration with the PUC on this around ELRP and making  
16 sure we're not duplicating efforts but really complementing  
17 efforts.

18           And with the CAISO when this plays out, when we  
19 do have a really crunch time, the relationships that you've  
20 developed and this sort of information exchange in real  
21 time is going to help all this happen seamlessly. And that  
22 that collaboration and coordination is critical, as they  
23 run the grid in real time.

24           So with that just thanks to Erik and Ashley, you  
25 both. And I wanted to just thank a few more people here.

1 Payam Narvand and Guadalupe Corona and Michael Sidhu, and  
2 really the whole the rest of the DSGS team who've really  
3 been supporting this and working behind the scenes, and  
4 under Vice Chair Gunda's direction. So really appreciate  
5 everyone's effort on this and I'm looking forward to  
6 scaling up these resources.

7 So with that, I'd ask for if no more comments I'd  
8 ask for a motion.

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve this  
10 item.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I will go for a  
13 vote. Commissioner Monahan.

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Gallardo.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
18 well. So this Item passes 3-0. Thanks very much.

19 MS. EMERGENCY Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I appreciate it. Okay,  
21 well moving on to Item 6, California Department of  
22 Transportation, Caltrans.

23 MR. DE ALBA: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
24 name is Ben De Alba and I work in the Fuels and  
25 Transportation Division. And I'm joined by Jimmy O'Dea who

1 is the Assistant Deputy Director for Transportation  
2 Electrification at Caltrans.

3           The Item before you pertains to an interagency  
4 agreement between Caltrans and the Energy Commission for  
5 the implementation of the National Electric Vehicle  
6 Infrastructure Program, also referred to as the NEVI  
7 Program.

8           I'm pleased to present this agreement to you  
9 today for approval, because it officially makes the Energy  
10 Commission the administrator of the NEVI Program for  
11 California. It also reflects the diligent efforts of  
12 individuals at the Commission, Caltrans, and the Federal  
13 Highway Administration. A lot of work went into this  
14 agreement to get it to here today.

15           Before I dive into the importance and purpose of  
16 this interagency agreement I want to first give a brief  
17 overview of the NEVI Program. Next slide, please.

18           The NEVI Program is a \$5 billion formula program  
19 that was established under the Infrastructure Investment  
20 and Jobs Act of 2021. Through the formula California will  
21 receive approximately \$384 million over the course of five  
22 years.

23           To maintain eligibility, California must submit a  
24 deployment plan to the Federal Highway Administration and  
25 the US Joint Office of Energy and Transportation every

1 year. We received federal approval for our first plan in  
2 September 2022. I want to emphasize that our 2022 plan  
3 received extensive stakeholder input from a wide range of  
4 interested parties. And the Energy Commission is  
5 implementing this program in partnership with Caltrans.  
6 Next slide.

7           The primary objective of the NEVI Program is to  
8 deploy a nationwide network of DC fast charging stations.  
9 California will use the NEVI Program to deploy DC fast  
10 charging stations along approximately 6,600 miles of  
11 interstates, US routes, and state routes within the state.

12           The NEVI Program requires that at least four fast  
13 chargers be installed every 50 miles or less. Moreover,  
14 the NEVI Program emphasizes equity and inclusion. Fifty  
15 percent of the chargers must be located in disadvantaged  
16 communities or low-income communities, while 40 percent  
17 should be situated in Justice40 communities.

18           We expect the first round of NEVI-funded stations  
19 to begin construction in late 2024, early 2025. Next  
20 slide, please.

21           The importance and purpose of this agreement can  
22 be summed up simply. It formalizes the partnership between  
23 Caltrans and the Energy Commission and outlines the roles  
24 of each agency in implementing California's NEVI Program.  
25 Most importantly, it assigns the responsibility of

1 administering NEVI formula funds to the Energy Commission  
2 throughout the program's duration. Next slide, please.

3           The scope of work outlined in the agreement aims  
4 to maintain California's eligibility for NEVI formula funds  
5 and ensure the efficient management of those federal  
6 dollars.

7           There are four main tasks to do just that. The  
8 first task is to annually update the California's NEVI  
9 Deployment Plan, as required by the Federal Highway  
10 Administration and the US Joint Office of Energy and  
11 Transportation in order for the state to receive formula  
12 funds. The second is to designate Alternative Fuel  
13 Corridors. The third is to develop and oversee NEVI  
14 funding opportunities for awarding NEVI formula funds. And  
15 finally, the last task is to develop and manage NEVI  
16 projects.

17           While the Energy Commission takes the lead in  
18 administering the NEVI Program, the interagency agreement  
19 emphasizes close collaboration between Caltrans and the  
20 Commission to ensure the program's success.

21           The estimated cost for the Energy Commission to  
22 administer the NEVI Program over the next decade is \$10  
23 million. Approximately 80 percent of these costs are  
24 eligible for reimbursement from the NEVI Program. And the  
25 Energy Commission will contribute approximately 2 million

1 to fulfill the 20 percent non-federal match requirement.

2 Next slide.

3 California is poised to enjoy significant  
4 advantages from this newly established federal program.  
5 The NEVI formula program aims to establish a consistent and  
6 dependable network of fast chargers across the state.

7 In the process the program will generate well-  
8 paying jobs, boost the state's EV charging manufacturing  
9 sector, and ultimately facilitate broader adoption of zero  
10 emission vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure  
11 thereby reducing emissions. Next slide.

12 Staff recommends that the Commission approve the  
13 interagency agreement with Caltrans, approve the 2,004,358  
14 in match funding for admin expenses, and adopt staff's CEQA  
15 findings that this agreement is exempt from CEQA. Thank  
16 you.

17 And at this time, I want to ask Jimmy O'Dea to  
18 come to the podium.

19 MR. O'DEA: Good morning, Commissioners. Jimmy  
20 O'Dea, and it's great to be here representing Caltrans in  
21 this interagency agreement. Just three quick points to add  
22 on to what Ben said.

23 First, how grateful we are to partner with the  
24 Energy Commission on this program. We consider the Energy  
25 Commission to be a national and global leader in

1 administering charging programs and administering these  
2 funds. And that leadership has really been evident in the  
3 many meetings and documents that we've exchanged back and  
4 forth over the last several months in crafting this  
5 interagency agreement.

6           Second, to say that at Caltrans we stand  
7 committed to share our expertise in administering federal  
8 transportation funds as our role in this partnership.  
9 There's a lot of nuances and requirements associated with  
10 federal funding and that's where our expertise can come in.  
11 We're very happy to provide that to this partnership.

12           And third, to say that the relationships that  
13 we've developed through this interagency agreement are  
14 already bearing fruit in other projects. Namely, an  
15 application that Caltrans and Energy Commission submitted  
16 to a federal discretionary grant program, alongside Oregon  
17 DOT, Washington DOT, for charging for trucks and hydro  
18 fueling for trucks in our three states. And I can say  
19 without a doubt, that application probably wouldn't have  
20 gotten off the ground, let alone be I think, a really  
21 strong application, if we didn't have this relationship  
22 from the NEVI Program.

23           So we look forward to working together, to the  
24 success of this program. And continue to work together  
25 outside of NEVI, because there's a lot of work where we

1 overlap. Thanks for having me.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thanks very much for  
3 your comment. Appreciate your being here, and the  
4 partnership.

5 Any other -- any public comment, Madam Advisor?

6 MS. BADIE: Yes. Hello. This is Mona Badie, the  
7 Public Advisor. The Commission now welcomes public comment  
8 on Item 6. This is only for Item 6, so if you have  
9 comments for informational or items not on the agenda, we  
10 ask that you use the public comment period at the next  
11 business meeting. That would be the next open public  
12 comment period.

13 All right, and for folks in the room we're asking  
14 you to use the QR code. And if you're on Zoom, please use  
15 the raise hand feature or \*9 via phone. There's no one in  
16 the room. Now moving on to Zoom. Nicola Lakic. I'm going  
17 to open your line, please limit your comments to two  
18 minutes or less. And please limit your comment to items  
19 related to this NEVI Program, Item 6 on the agenda.

20 MR. LAKIC: Thank you very much for this, another  
21 opportunity to say a few words. Regarding Item number 6,  
22 Department of Transportation, Caltrans.

23 Today, the argument against electric car charging  
24 stations was, well we're going to review it while you're  
25 using at your home again, or stations, you're using burning

55

1 power plant, nuclear power plant, coal burning power plant,  
2 energy produced. Well not anymore. With implementation of  
3 my system for harnessing solar energy, that argument is not  
4 going to be valid anymore.

5 I can produce a substantial amount of energy from  
6 the sun, and we can use any recharging stations with the  
7 panels. Again, they are like posts like when you see those  
8 reflector lights at a baseball game. You know, each corner  
9 has five at night, on night games, something similar. I'm  
10 using concentrated solar energy and I'm using  
11 (indiscernible) system. It's several times more powerful  
12 than photovoltaic, so that can be incorporated in every  
13 station 50 miles apart.

14 Again, this is a system that I'm using Salton Sea  
15 for a decent organization of the Salton Sea. But again, it  
16 has multi, multi applications. So I just want to emphasize  
17 the importance of the project for restoration of the Salton  
18 Sea that can be used in many, many different applications.  
19 And again, thank you very much. I just want to tell the  
20 Commissioners to be aware of it, and all stakeholders. I  
21 could be reached by my -- well  
22 [nlakic@geothermalworldwide.com](mailto:nlakic@geothermalworldwide.com). And please read my  
23 proposal, it's substantial material. Thank you.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25 That concludes public comment for Item 6. Back

1 to you, Commissioner McAllister.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you, Madam Public  
3 Advisor.

4 So we'll open it up for Commissioner comments,  
5 starting with Commissioner Monahan.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well first, I want to  
7 congratulate Ben for his leadership. He really has taken  
8 this by the mantle. And it's been complicated. So I mean,  
9 this is the first time ever that there has been this kind  
10 of relationship between Caltrans and the Energy Commission.  
11 And the first time we've had the Department of  
12 Transportation providing money for infrastructure.

13 So there's been sort of transformational changes  
14 happening at the national level that has led to, I think,  
15 transformational changes here at the local level. And it's  
16 been, I would just say, hard I know, for both agencies to  
17 kind of figure out, how do we do this? How do we make it  
18 legally circumspect? How do we make it so that it works?  
19 We can actually, like, run with this money.

20 And I just want to say, you know, both Ben, and I  
21 mean the leadership at Caltrans has just been  
22 extraordinary. Jimmy and Tony, the Director. And so just  
23 it's amazing to see how far we've come.

24 I also want to put -- I put a list of all the  
25 folks that have been involved in the federal application.

1 And you could see there's just too many names to read. So  
2 I would just say, you know, it's taken cross a cross-  
3 departmental engagement. Mostly it's the Fuels and  
4 Transportation Division, but others have been involved.  
5 CCO has been really critical in many aspects of this, my  
6 team has gotten engaged, it's just been kind of an all  
7 hands on deck.

8           And this charging and fueling infrastructure,  
9 from what I've been hearing is like that one was crazy.  
10 Like the turnaround was crazy. The teams had to work  
11 really hard. It's cross state. That takes a lot of work  
12 to pull together this application. And so just whatever  
13 happens with that I just want to acknowledge that it was a  
14 ton of work, and took a lot of leadership and creativity to  
15 make this happen.

16           So this project is really focusing on light duty.  
17 The charging and fueling infrastructure project is focusing  
18 on medium and heavy duty of both charging and hydrogen  
19 infrastructure. So just really a lot of creativity has  
20 gone into this. And I just want to thank all the folks at  
21 the Energy Commission that have taken a leadership role in  
22 this. And as well as our Deputy Executive Director, even  
23 though she doesn't like to take any credit for anything.

24           So yeah, I strongly support this and look forward  
25 to the monies rolling in over the next five years. It's a

1 five-year program. And so we're going to be going through  
2 some iteration every year.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great, thank you.  
4 Commissioner Gallardo.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you. I want to say  
6 congratulations to Commissioner Monahan too, for her  
7 inspiration and commitment to always do things well and  
8 better and for our California communities.

9 And on that note, Ben, thank you so much for the  
10 great presentation. I was curious about the public  
11 engagement process. And I know that we talked to the  
12 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group early on about the  
13 NEVI possibility. And I was just curious, you know, what  
14 else has been done and what you're thinking about for  
15 moving forward? And then I have a second question, too.  
16 I'll let you tackle that one first.

17 MR. DE ALBA: Yeah, no, great, thank you. So as  
18 I mentioned in my remarks we had our first deployment plan  
19 that was approved by the federal government last year. And  
20 through that process, we're required to do a public  
21 engagement sort of plan. And through that plan we worked  
22 with DACAG, as you pointed out. And we have since -- and  
23 we're going to do that every year as part of developing the  
24 deployment plan. In fact, just recently we went back to  
25 the DACAG last week and brought this update plan before

1 them and including the continued dialogue on the  
2 discretionary grant application that we put forward.

3           So we have a plan to continue to engage the  
4 public. We're going to do that through our usual means of  
5 Zoom and make it accessible for anybody who wants to attend  
6 and incorporate the public feedback into the deployment  
7 plan every year.

8           Now, as far as the solicitations go, we're going  
9 to use the energy Commission's public engagement process  
10 for developing those solicitations where we see input on  
11 the draft sort of framework of the solicitation, and then  
12 continuing to engage the public through our open dockets  
13 and receive comments that way, as well.

14           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right, thank you for  
15 that. And then you also mentioned -- well, one I'm really  
16 excited about this for myself. But I also think it's  
17 really great that there's a focus on low-income  
18 communities, disadvantaged communities, justice  
19 communities. And you mentioned that 50 percent will be  
20 located in disadvantaged communities in low-income  
21 communities. So that's kind of like a California  
22 designation. Whereas 40 percent will be in Justice40  
23 communities, which is a federal designation. Can you  
24 explain what the difference is if there's a lot of variance  
25 there?

1           MR. DE ALBA: Yeah. So it's really exciting that  
2 we're, as a state we're able to use our own policies and  
3 sort of meld that into a federal program. And like you  
4 mentioned the 40 percent for the Justice40 communities is a  
5 federal requirement of the program. And then we're laying  
6 on top our own clean transportation program policy of  
7 deploying our infrastructure to benefit at least 50percent  
8 of the communities in the state.

9           And while it's the terms of benefit differs from  
10 the federal and the state, we are certainly going to make  
11 sure that we fulfill the requirements of the federal  
12 government, which has still yet to be fully defined of how  
13 to benefit a Justice40 community with an EV charging  
14 station. But we look forward to more guidance from the  
15 federal government on that going forward. And yeah, so  
16 it's going to be a requirement in our application process,  
17 for applicants to explain how they're going to benefit,  
18 reach those goals, and we will score appropriately.

19           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, thank you. I would  
20 love to learn more. So maybe I can connect with you after.

21           MR. DE ALBA: Yeah, absolutely.

22           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thank  
23 you. I will just pile on and say thanks, Ben and the whole  
24 team. And Commissioner Monahan, for all of your leadership  
25 on all things transportation, but certainly how best to

1 utilize federal monies. And we're really looking forward  
2 to seeing the impact of these monies.

3 And I know that in conversations with the other  
4 states about all the IIJ and IRA monies that are going to  
5 be coming to the states, that NEVI is really front and  
6 center. It's a huge -- making a huge splash really  
7 nationwide. And it's great that we can provide this  
8 leadership, and a model for some of the other states  
9 potentially, on interagency collaboration. So with that,  
10 can I ask for a motion?

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve this  
12 item.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All in favor.  
15 Commissioner Monahan.

16 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Gallardo.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
20 well, on this item. The item passes 3-0. Thank you very  
21 much, Ben.

22 Okay, moving on to Item 7.

23 MR. NGUYEN: Hello.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Hold on. Oh, sorry.  
25 Let me just read the item, GILLIG LLC. All right, Hieu.

1 MR. NGUYEN: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
2 name is Hieu Nguyen, Staff with the Fields and  
3 Transportation Division. Staff is seeking approval for our  
4 project with GILLIG LLC in Livermore, California, which is  
5 being proposed for funding under the Zero Emission  
6 Transportation Manufacturing Solicitation. Next slide.

7 As of the March 2023 Notice of Proposed Awards,  
8 13 projects are recommended for funding under this  
9 solicitation for a total of \$198 million. This is the 11th  
10 of 13 projects being proposed for funding under this  
11 solicitation, with the last 2 to be proposed at future  
12 meetings.

13 Today's proposal award up for your approval for  
14 \$29 million represents the second largest award  
15 recommendation from this solicitation. Next slide.

16 The proposed agreement is with GILLIG LLC.  
17 GILLIG is proposing to expand manufacturing and assembly of  
18 their zero-emission bus in Livermore, California. As part  
19 of this expansion, GILLIG will design and construct an on-  
20 site battery storage facility, expand existing office  
21 spaces, and update on-site zero emission vehicle bus  
22 testing equipment.

23 This agreement will enable GILLIG, with support  
24 from the CEC, to procure the advanced manufacturing  
25 equipment and resources necessary to expand zero emission

1 bus manufacturing to 15 buses a week. The proposed award  
2 for this project is nearly \$30 million with match funds  
3 of over \$35 million. Next slide.

4 If the GILLIG agreement is approved, the project  
5 will achieve GILLIG's goal to retain and expand in-state  
6 manufacturing of ZEV buses in California. This project  
7 will directly support pre-production of GILLIG's third  
8 generation battery electric bus.

9 When fully operational, this project will  
10 manufacture 780 buses a year by 2026. That will help  
11 displace over 80,000 tons of Greenhouse Gas emissions  
12 annually, while creating approximately 29 high-quality  
13 manufacturing jobs in Livermore and the surrounding areas.  
14 Next slide.

15 Today staff is seeking your approval for this  
16 agreement as well as adoption of staff's CEQA findings for  
17 this project. Findings that were based on the lead agency  
18 City of Livermore's Environmental Impact Report, which  
19 included mitigation measures which was adopted and filed by  
20 the City on March 23, 2004. And the City's subsequent  
21 Conditional Use Permit 14-006 and Site Plan Design Review  
22 14-018 adopted and filed on March 10, 2015. Add the City's  
23 Site Plan Design Review Modification 23-015 adopted and  
24 filed on June 2nd, 2023, that work under the project  
25 presents not new or substantially more severe environmental

1 impacts beyond those already considered and mitigated

2 We have Derek Maunus from GILLIG in attendance  
3 via Zoom who will be happy to answer any questions. This  
4 is the end of my presentation, and I am happy to answer any  
5 questions you may have. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you, Hieu.

7 Let's hear from the representative online.

8 MS. BADIE: I think the recipient's there to  
9 answer questions, but I can move to public comment next.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, public comment.

11 MS. BADIE: Great. Now's the time where if  
12 there's anyone interested in making public comment for Item  
13 7 we welcome you to notify us. If you are in the room,  
14 please use the QR code. If you're on Zoom please use the  
15 raise hand feature. And if you're joining us by phone  
16 please press \*9 to let us know that you'd like to make a  
17 comment on this item.

18 There is no one in the room. So I'm going to  
19 move on to Zoom. We have Derek M, please state your full  
20 name. Spell your full name for the record and state any  
21 affiliation. I'm going to unmute your line. Please limit  
22 your comments to two minutes or less. You may unmute and  
23 begin, Derek.

24 MR. MAUNUS: Derek Maunus, D-E-R-E-K M-A-U-N-U-S,  
25 and I'm the CEO of GILLIG. On behalf of GILLIG and our

1 1,000 employees I want to thank the opportunity to be  
2 considered for this grant. In 2017 GILLIG made a huge  
3 investment in our employees, in the state of California,  
4 building a 640,000 square foot manufacturing plant in  
5 Livermore.

6 So we appreciate the CEC considering a  
7 significant investment back into GILLIG, really our  
8 employees and zero mission transit. This investment is  
9 going to help us scale the e-bus capacity from 150 today to  
10 750 buses a year. Not only 120,000 tons of greenhouse gas  
11 emission, but it's going to help our customers meet CARB's  
12 innovation clean transit rules.

13 It also helps GILLIG, who's a top paying  
14 manufacturer in California for success. We compete against  
15 manufacturers outside the state that have lower cost of  
16 labor and who received considerable incentives from their  
17 home countries and other states. These jobs, our GILLIG  
18 jobs are represented by the International Brotherhood of  
19 Teamsters 853, Automotive and Marine and Specialty Painters  
20 1176.

21 This is an investment in transit, who's leading  
22 the commercial vehicle transition to zero emission and  
23 thousands of well-paying jobs. We have 500 suppliers that  
24 have tens of thousands of jobs that supply GILLIG. We  
25 reinvest \$240 million annually into these other

1 manufacturers a year.

2 Steve Back, the Principal Officer and Secretary  
3 Treasurer of International Brotherhood of Teamsters, asked  
4 me to read a quick snippet of a letter that's in the file,  
5 if it's okay.

6 "I'm writing to support GILLIG's Zero Emission  
7 Bus Manufacturing Ramp-Up in the State of California grant  
8 award. GILLIG's Zero Emission Bus Manufacturing Ramp-Up in  
9 the State of California focuses on expanding the company's  
10 electric bus manufacturing. While GILLIG has demonstrated  
11 its capabilities in producing electric buses additional  
12 investment is required to expand the company's capacity to  
13 meet growing demand. The Teamsters organized the facility  
14 in 1976 and now represents over 500 manufacturing workers  
15 at the Livermore facility in the Hayward Parks Division.  
16 Over the past half a century Local 850 threes collaboration  
17 with GILLIG has gone well beyond the typical labor  
18 management contractual relationships, though it has been  
19 that as well.

20 "GILLIG prides itself on being a family centric  
21 company that values the contributions of its team members.  
22 The diverse unionized workforce makes excellent wages, has  
23 the best teamsters benefits and pension packages, and has  
24 very low attrition rate. The vast majority of our workers  
25 have been with the company for more than 10 years --

1 MS. BADIE: (Indiscernible)

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Let's give him time to  
3 finish, since he's also reading a comment from another.

4 MR. MAUNUS: Thank you.

5 "Teamsters benefits and pension packages and has  
6 a very low attrition rate. The vast majority of workers  
7 have been with the company for more than 10 years with many  
8 surpassing 20 and 30 years. We greatly appreciate this  
9 award granted GILLIG. The company competes primarily  
10 against foreign-owned nonunion represented companies. This  
11 grant strengthens the company's ability to develop and  
12 deliver zero emission buses and further secure union jobs.  
13 The Teamsters fully support this program and thank the  
14 Commissioners for their support."

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 That is the final comment for this item. Back to  
17 you, Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great. Well,  
19 let's move on to Commissioner comments starting with  
20 Commissioner Monahan.

21 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah well, we keep  
22 bringing these ones, the ZEV manufacturer discussion items,  
23 just because they're big grants, it's exciting, it's about  
24 California keeping good jobs here in state. And as you  
25 heard from Derek reading the comment letter from Teamsters,

68

1 like these are good union jobs. And we want to keep these  
2 companies here in California, creating the vehicles that we  
3 need to meet our transit bus requirements and other zero  
4 emission vehicle requirements that the Air Resources Board  
5 is passing.

6           So I just want to thank you, and Jonathan  
7 Bobadilla, who has been sort of the father of the whole  
8 process of all these manufacturing grants. And, you know,  
9 they are all -- I would say we're taking risks at the State  
10 of California and providing big grants to help support  
11 these manufacturers to stay in California. And there are  
12 barriers to staying in California. So we just recognize  
13 that commitment to the state. And we want to make sure  
14 that we're supporting companies that are trying to do the  
15 right thing.

16           And I just did have a quick question for Derek,  
17 who I hope is still available online. Public Advisor, is  
18 that --

19           MS. BADIE: Derek, if you raise your hand I can  
20 open your line. Your line is open, Derek.

21           MR. MAUNUS: Okay.

22           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Okay. Well, Derek, first,  
23 congratulations on securing this. Well, we'll see. We'll  
24 see what the vote is. I was curious if you could tell us  
25 just a few sentences on how you ended up in Livermore?

1           MR. MAUNUS: Yeah, so GILLIG began in actually  
2 1890 in San Francisco. We moved to Hayward. We were in  
3 Hayward for 60 years. We were growing the business, we ran  
4 out of space and were trying to figure out where our next  
5 move was. And we went through a very thorough process to  
6 evaluate where our next home was going to be. And frankly,  
7 there was a lot of offers from outside of the State of  
8 California that were very enticing.

9           The reality is, is that our employees at GILLIG  
10 is what helped us make the decision to keep this business  
11 in California. And that's the reality. Our employees made  
12 this company, helped make this company successful and we  
13 weren't going to reward them by moving their jobs out of  
14 state. And Livermore location-wise is really central to  
15 where all of our employees live. We have a lot of  
16 employees coming over from over the Altamont Pass. And we  
17 had still a lot of employees over the Hayward and Newark  
18 area. And as well, this was central to where they were. A  
19 little bit of higher cost of construction and to build a  
20 facility out here, but it really improved the lives of our  
21 employees who, frankly, are the lifeblood of this company.

22           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks, Derek. I also  
23 want to say, you know, my Advisor Patricia Carlos is  
24 organizing together with the Governor's Office of Business  
25 and Economic Development virtual tours of these ZEV

1 manufacturing facilities. We're going to be opening it up  
2 to cross-agency participation to be able to remotely visit  
3 facilities. So Derek, I'm hoping that you'll be open to us  
4 having one of these remote visits because we do -- I think  
5 there's a lot of curiosity about things ZEV manufacturing  
6 in real time happening here in California. So just I want  
7 to put that out there that you'll be, if you haven't  
8 already, be contacted by my Advisor around this.

9 MR. MAUNUS: Absolutely.

10 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: And just one last thing I  
11 want to say is, just yesterday, we had Bloomberg New Energy  
12 Finance give a briefing to all of us on their electric  
13 vehicle outlook, which they published every year. And one  
14 of the things they said, which really stuck with me is that  
15 buses have already sort of reached that point of like  
16 massive commercialization. Other heavy-duty vehicles, not  
17 so much. But on the bus side, we are seeing sort of a  
18 dominance of electric technology over internal combustion,  
19 and it's happening at a global scale.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you,  
21 Commissioner.

22 Commissioner Gallardo, any comment?

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes. I just wanted to  
24 say first, congratulations to Hugh and Jonathan, great work  
25 on this.

1           And to Derek, really appreciate how much you  
2 emphasized your employees and that workers' perspective, I  
3 think that's really important. Not just being located in  
4 California, but that sense of taking care of the people who  
5 work with you for you. And I really appreciate that. So  
6 congratulations to you as well.

7           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Well, great. And I  
8 couldn't agree more myself. Just this is a significant  
9 amount of money, and really just does all the right things  
10 for California, and growing our green energy economy and  
11 doing it in a way that really benefits everyone and creates  
12 good lasting jobs.

13           And it's amazing, the trajectory of -- from the  
14 1800s, all the way to today and the continuity there is  
15 just really beautiful to see. So I think it's an example  
16 for many, many sectors that we're trying to grow in the  
17 state, in our transition, and sort of a bright light. So  
18 thanks you for the presentation, and Mr. Maunus for being  
19 with us.

20           With that, I would entertain a motion.

21           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 7.

22           COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

23           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All in favor.

24 Commissioner Monahan.

25           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Gallardo.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
4 well. So this agenda Item passes 3-0. Thank you.

5 Okay, let's move on to Item 8, Assessing the Role  
6 of Hydrogen in California's Decarbonizing Electric System.  
7 Jeffrey Sunquist.

8 MR. SUNQUIST: Hello Commissioners. My name is  
9 Jeffrey Sunquist. I am a Mechanical Engineer in the Energy  
10 Research and Development Division. I am presenting the two  
11 proposed awards that resulted from the EPIC solicitation:  
12 Assessing the Role of Hydrogen in California's  
13 Decarbonizing Electric System. Next slide.

14 Hydrogen produced from renewable electricity has  
15 the potential to support grid reliability and  
16 decarbonization. However, hydrogen's electric sector  
17 applications such as providing long-duration energy storage  
18 and zero carbon firm dispatchable generation remain nascent  
19 and economically challenging.

20 The role of hydrogen in California's  
21 decarbonizing electric sector will depend on sustained  
22 technology advances, cost reductions, and development of  
23 new planning tools tailored to California's mix of energy  
24 resources. Additionally, there's a need to understand  
25 cross-sector impacts and benefits of potential hydrogen

1 demand in other sectors such as transportation and  
2 industrial processes.

3           These proposed projects will identify cost  
4 effective hydrogen use cases that will provide the greatest  
5 environmental, economic, and reliability benefits to the  
6 electric sector. The projects will inform policy measures  
7 and help prioritize future research, demonstration, and  
8 deployment investments to accelerate these beneficial use  
9 cases. Next slide.

10           The first proposed award with RAND Corporation  
11 will conduct a literature review and engage subject matter  
12 experts to evaluate current hydrogen production, storage,  
13 delivery, and electric sector end use technologies as well  
14 as prospects for fundamental innovations and cost  
15 improvements.

16           RAND will identify targeted use cases and develop  
17 technology performance metrics and cost models to guide  
18 future state research priorities. The project will also  
19 assess potential environmental impacts and mitigation  
20 measures of candidate technologies including water  
21 consumption, emissions, and hydrogen leakage to ensure  
22 benefits to California's communities.

23           The project will combine these technology  
24 assessments with an evaluation of existing programs,  
25 legislation, and rulemakings related to hydrogen

1 technologies for the electric sector to provide actionable  
2 recommendations for future investments. Next slide.

3           The second proposed award with Energy and  
4 Environmental Economics, E3, will develop a Hydrogen Fuels  
5 Optimization modeling tool to assess hydrogen  
6 infrastructure and fuel consumption. The tool will be  
7 integrated with existing models including PATHWAYS, an  
8 economywide energy demand, emissions, and cost accounting  
9 model; RESOLVE, an energy supply optimization and capacity  
10 expansion model; and RECAP, an electric sector resource  
11 adequacy model.

12           Together, this will provide an integrated  
13 modeling framework to study the cost competitiveness of  
14 hydrogen in California's electric sector and develop least  
15 cost hydrogen production, storage, delivery, and end use  
16 scenarios.

17           E3 will also assess the feasibility and value  
18 proposition of storing hydrogen in geologic formations  
19 compared to other forms of hydrogen storage, which can play  
20 a key role in meeting time-varying hydrogen demand across  
21 sectors. E3 will examine sensitivities around future  
22 research and development improvements to equipment cost,  
23 performance, and total resource potential. Project results  
24 will inform policy and R&D measures that can drive  
25 beneficial use of hydrogen to decarbonize the electric

1 sector. Next slide.

2 Staff recommends approval of these grant  
3 agreements with RAND and E3, and adoption of staff's  
4 determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. That  
5 concludes my presentation. I am available for questions.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you very much,  
7 Jeffrey.

8 Madam Public Advisor, do we have any public  
9 comments?

10 MS. BADIE: Hello, this Mona again, the Public  
11 Advisor at the California Energy Commission. The  
12 Commission now welcomes public comment on Item 8 on the  
13 agenda. If you're in the room, we ask that you use the QR  
14 code to notify us you'd like to make a comment. And if  
15 you're on Zoom, please use the raise hand feature, or press  
16 \*9 if you're joining us by phone.

17 Checking the room and on the line. There are no  
18 comments for this item. Back to you, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Well, we're a  
20 little bit short handed up here on the dais. So normally,  
21 I would call on somebody, but I guess maybe I'll just kick  
22 it off here.

23 So thanks, Jeffrey, for the presentation. Really  
24 good stuff. And I just want to commend the whole EPIC team  
25 for moving forward on this topic. I would also wear the

1 hat of the chair of the Western Green Hydrogen Initiative,  
2 which is a joint discussion really among the states  
3 convened by the Western Interstate Energy Board and NASEO,  
4 the National Association of State Energy officials.

5 And the states are at very different places about  
6 hydrogen, there's a lot of -- Even here in California, you  
7 know, there's a lot of different sort of views and  
8 understandings of hydrogen. And we are going to -- we're  
9 beginning to invest more heavily to figure all this out.  
10 And I think this work is going to be critical for  
11 understanding on the electric sector side. And just really  
12 appreciate the proactive nature of the EPIC teams, the  
13 research and development visions' approach, thoughtful  
14 approach to hydrogen overall and as reflected in this  
15 particular solicitation.

16 And most of us remember about the sort of first  
17 round of SB 100, where we were left with some questions  
18 about that last bit of the Clean Energy Transition. The  
19 last 5 or 10 percent like could we confirm and kind of what  
20 the role, what technologies were going to sort of step into  
21 that breach. And hydrogen being one of them that  
22 stakeholders have told us they'd like to see us look at.

23 So I think this overall trajectory is served well  
24 by this particular solicitation and these two awards. So  
25 looking forward to seeing what they produce, and looks like

1 a couple of good contractors. So I'm in support. And I'll  
2 ask if other -- Commissioner Monahan, any comment?

3 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Just quickly, I want to  
4 just build on what you said in terms of I feel like we as a  
5 state, we've really focused on hydrogen and fuel cells for  
6 transportation. And now we're looking more broadly at well  
7 what other potential uses could hydrogen play in helping us  
8 meet our clean energy goals? And I think on the grid side,  
9 that's sort of "under" understood. We need a deeper  
10 understanding of the potential for hydrogen to support I  
11 think, especially in the resilience category.

12 And so this analysis, I think, is going to be  
13 really foundational to that. And what we had talked about  
14 when I was briefed was just to have periodic updates on  
15 what the research is finding rather than waiting until the  
16 end, if there's any interim results. I think there's  
17 curiosity by all of us in terms of what the role hydrogen  
18 could play on producing clean electricity.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Do you want to comment?

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, just a quick  
21 comment. Thank you, Jeffrey, for the presentation. You  
22 did a wonderful job. I also appreciated the thorough  
23 briefing you gave to my team earlier.

24 I am also excited about this, just learning more  
25 about the possibilities and impacts of hydrogen. I have

1 heard from environmental justice experts who expressed  
2 concerns and also have curiosities about it and what we  
3 could do better. So I think this is going to be fantastic.  
4 So thank you for moving it forward.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. With that, I  
6 would entertain a motion for this item, for Item 8.

7 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 8.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

9 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. All those in  
10 favor. Commissioner Gallardo.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
15 well. So this motion passes 3-0. Thank you very much,  
16 Jeffrey.

17 MR. SUNQUIST: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Moving on to Item 9,  
19 Advancing Window Retrofits and Reducing Fireplace Air  
20 Leakage to Increase Existing Building Energy Efficiency.  
21 Jeanie Mar, good morning. Is the green light on?

22 MS. MAR: Good morning, Commissioners.

23 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Good morning.

24 MS. MAR: My name is Jeanie Mar and I am with the  
25 Energy Efficiency Research branch of the Energy Research

1 and Development Division.

2 I will be presenting three awards for approval  
3 resulting from the advancing window retrofits and reducing  
4 fireplace air leaks to improve energy efficiency in  
5 existing buildings. Next slide, please.

6 This solicitation funds energy efficiency  
7 research for the two groups listed totaling more than \$2.6  
8 million. The goals for these two groups are to advance  
9 high performance windows in existing commercial buildings  
10 and reduce air and energy leakage in existing residential  
11 wood burning and gas fireplaces.

12 This solicitation addresses envelope retrofits in  
13 existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce  
14 greenhouse gases through reducing energy use in heating,  
15 ventilation, and air conditioning. There are two proposed  
16 awards for Group 1 and one proposed award for Group 2.  
17 Next slide, please.

18 Some of the benefits for these projects include a  
19 reduction in heating and cooling loads, greenhouse gas  
20 emissions, lower energy bills, improved occupant, comfort  
21 and the results could inform future codes and standards or  
22 energy efficiency programs. Next slide, please.

23 The first proposed award is with Electric Power  
24 Research Institute, also known as EPRI, for over \$1.5  
25 million. It will be a whole building demonstration located

1 in Bakersfield in two elementary school sites in low-income  
2 disadvantaged communities.

3 This agreement will demonstrate and evaluate an  
4 interior mounted secondary window system technology called  
5 WindowSkin. The school sites were built in the 1950s, and  
6 conventional whole window upgrades have been passed over  
7 multiple times due to the expense and asbestos and lead  
8 remediation concerns.

9 The technology is a panel that snaps into the  
10 corners of a windowpane adding an extra layer of insulation  
11 to the window. It is flexible, lightweight, easier and  
12 quicker to install, is less intrusive to occupants and less  
13 costly than conventional windows replacements. Next slide,  
14 please.

15 The second proposed agreement is with DNV Energy  
16 Insights for over \$230,000.

17 DNV will conduct a preliminary study to  
18 characterize California's residential building stock with  
19 gas and wood burning fireplaces. This will include an  
20 investigation and evaluation of cost effective strategies  
21 to reduce fireplace air and energy losses, monitoring air  
22 quality and pollutant infiltration and exfiltration to  
23 better understand how this affects energy and the potential  
24 health impacts.

25 The research will use commercially available

1 technology, including chimney balloons, dampers and glass  
2 doors, to test air leakage and monitor air  
3 infiltration/exfiltration in 20 homes. The project will  
4 provide an educational package to help California  
5 ratepayers and other stakeholders reduce air and energy  
6 losses resulting from their fireplaces. Next slide,  
7 please.

8           The third and final proposed agreement is with  
9 GTI Energy for over \$860,000. This demonstration will be  
10 located a in a large hotel located in Indian Wells. This  
11 agreement will develop, demonstrate, and evaluate three  
12 secondary window system technologies that are lighter,  
13 easier, and quicker to install, is less disruptive to  
14 occupants, and will be less costly than traditional windows  
15 replacements.

16           The first technology is a thin glass triple pane  
17 secondary window system that will be merging two  
18 commercially available Alpen product lines, a double pane  
19 secondary window system, and a thin-glass triple-pane  
20 window. This secondary window system will be paid with CEC  
21 funds.

22           The other two novel secondary window systems will  
23 be using aerogel and vacuum insulated glass technologies  
24 and will be paid with match funds. Next slide, please.

25           Staff recommends adopting staff's determination

1 that these actions are exempt from CEQA and approval of  
2 these three grant agreements. Thank you for your  
3 consideration, and this concludes my presentation.

4 Sara Beaini is on the line from EPRI and would  
5 like to make a comment. And staff from GTI are available  
6 for questions.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you,  
8 Jeanie. Really appreciate the presentation. Very clear,  
9 so thank you.

10 Madam Public Advisor, do we have public comment?

11 MS. BADIE: Hello again, this is Mona Badie, the  
12 Public Advisor with the California Energy Commission. The  
13 Commission now welcomes public comment on Item 9.

14 If you're in the room, we ask that you use the QR  
15 code to notify us you'd like to make a comment. And if  
16 you're joining by Zoom, please use the raise hand feature  
17 or \*9 if you're joining by phone. We don't have any  
18 commenters in the room.

19 And I'm going to move to Zoom now. Sara Beaini,  
20 I'm going to open your line. Please spell your name for  
21 the record, state any affiliation. We ask that comments be  
22 limited to two minutes or less. Thank you.

23 Sara, your line is open. Sara, we're not hearing  
24 any audio on your end.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Do we have any other

1 public comment?

2 MS. BADIE: There are no other public comments  
3 for this item.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Let's just give, maybe  
5 -- Are there any instructions to Sara, to help her unmute?  
6 Is she on Zoom?

7 MS. BADIE: Yeah, she's on Zoom, the line is  
8 open. Sara, I don't know what's happening on your end.  
9 One option we can do is Sara, if you want to call in using  
10 the call-in number that's on the agenda we can take your  
11 public comment at the next item.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We'll continue on and  
13 hopefully you can get her online, and she can chime in when  
14 possible.

15 So we'll move to Commissioner discussion. And I  
16 guess I'll just kick off since I am partnered with the  
17 Chair on the RDD Division Oversight and also on Efficiency.  
18 So these three topics are near and dear to my heart and  
19 anything that helps improve the building shell is awesome  
20 for efficiency.

21 In particular, we need solutions for existing  
22 buildings. And windows are a big part of that. And  
23 fireplaces are -- they don't get all that much attention.  
24 So it's great to see that this is happening. And I  
25 remember now Senator Nancy Skinner, did an energy audit,

1 had an energy audit done in her house in Berkeley. And was  
2 basically like it was a huge revelation to her that her  
3 chimney was by far the biggest loss of conditioned air.  
4 It's like having a gaping hole in the wall, you just don't  
5 see it. And I don't know how many of you have gotten your  
6 hands covered with soot trying to close that little iron  
7 gate in your fireplaces. But the technology is, let's say  
8 it's a little bit outdated for sealing up fireplaces when  
9 they're not in use and using them properly when they are in  
10 use.

11 So really excited to see all three of these  
12 items, and also to see our sort of skinny triple work come  
13 to fruition in a retrofit situation.

14 So have we been able to get Sara online?

15 MS. BADIE: There is a call-in number. I'm going  
16 to try to open both lines for Sara. I'm going to open your  
17 line that you're joining online, and then there's a phone  
18 number ending in 754. I'm going to open that line as well.  
19 I'm assuming that's Sara Beaini.

20 MS. BEAINI: Can you hear me?

21 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Hey, there you are.  
22 Yes, we can hear you.

23 MS. BEAINI: Perfect, thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Go ahead.

25 MS. BADIE: Sara, I think you've muted yourself

1 again.

2 MS. BEAINI: Sara Beaini.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Right. We can hear  
4 you, go ahead.

5 MS. BEAINI: S-A-R-A B-E-A-I-N-I, with EPRI.  
6 Good morning and good afternoon, Commissioners, and thank  
7 you so much for this opportunity of this project award. On  
8 behalf of EPRI, Wex Energy, Clear Result, Intertech, and  
9 the Bakersfield City School District, we're very excited  
10 and grateful for the opportunity to reduce costs and  
11 greenhouse gas emissions in existing and aging elementary  
12 school buildings that are located in the San Joaquin  
13 Valley.

14 This is a disadvantaged community in a region  
15 that has the poorest air quality in California due to its  
16 topography, and climate and geography.

17 One of the unique features of the WEX energy  
18 window insert technology is that you don't have to modify  
19 the existing frame or window. This has multiple benefits  
20 to lower the installation costs, have faster installation  
21 time, and not to deal with lead or asbestos removal. And  
22 it can also maintain historical building attributes if  
23 that's applicable. We thank you again and look forward to  
24 a successful project.

25 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you for your

1 comment for being here. And if you could stay on the line,  
2 Commissioner Gallardo I think has a question for you, Sara.

3 I think no other public comment, correct?

4 MS. BADIE: Correct.

5 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great.  
6 Commissioner Gallardo.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right. Well, thank  
8 you so much Jeanie, for the wonderful presentation. Also  
9 the thorough briefing. I am really impressed with this and  
10 really excited to see what comes about.

11 And, Sara, one of the questions I had that I  
12 wanted to hear more if you're able to share is how the two  
13 schools in Bakersfield were chosen?

14 MS. BEAINI: Thank you for the question. My  
15 colleague and the co-PI on the grant, Agatha Caston, has  
16 worked with various school districts in California through  
17 her prior experiences and was able to connect us with the  
18 school district.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, fantastic. And I  
20 did hear that those facilities are very old. So and that  
21 this type of technology won't be disruptive in terms of  
22 asbestos and the lead. So I think it's a fantastic  
23 opportunity for these schools that are in an area with poor  
24 air quality and also impacted by poverty that are going to  
25 have this benefit. So thank you for that, Sara, I really

87

1 appreciate that.

2 MS. BEAINI: Likewise. Thank you, everyone.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you for being  
4 here.

5 Commissioner Monahan, any comment?

6 I think just to point out that we've invested a  
7 lot in Prop 39 in schools and in the CALSHAPE program we  
8 are still investing in schools. And projects like this  
9 really compliment that work quite well, so it's really  
10 great to see this moving forward.

11 So with that I'd entertain a motion.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 9.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right, all in  
15 favor. Commissioner Gallardo.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

18 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye, as  
20 well. And this item passes 3-0. Thank you, Jeanie. I  
21 appreciate the presentation. Well done.

22 Let's move on to Item 10. Let me go to the page  
23 here, Advancing Environmental Monitoring Technologies for  
24 Floating Offshore Wind. Mr. Danielson.

25 MR. DANIELSON: Hi, hello. Can you hear me okay?

1                   COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We can.

2                   MR. DANIELSON: Hello, Commissioners. My name is  
3 Mark Danielson. I am a Senior Environmental Scientist in  
4 the Energy Research and Development Division. I am  
5 presenting the three proposed awards that resulted from our  
6 recent EPIC solicitation: Advancing Environmental  
7 Monitoring Technologies for Floating Offshore Wind. Next  
8 slide, please.

9                   The anticipated deployment of Floating Offshore  
10 Wind off the California coast will require evaluation of a  
11 diverse array of potential environmental impacts such as  
12 changes to marine life populations, oceanic processes such  
13 as upwelling, and wildlife collision and entanglement  
14 risks. Current environmental monitoring technologies are  
15 limited in temporal and spatial resolution, accuracy, and  
16 durability in California's offshore environment.

17                  Additionally, the need for continuous monitoring  
18 will require managing extremely large datasets. The  
19 proposed projects from this solicitation will reduce risks  
20 and uncertainty relating to the environmental impacts of  
21 offshore wind, improve the operational durability to  
22 withstand California ocean conditions, advance the use of  
23 artificial intelligence in processing and managing large  
24 datasets, and reduce costs associated with permitting and  
25 monitoring. Next slide, please.

1           This solicitation was designed, so that each  
2 project will integrate at least two separate but  
3 complimentary monitoring technologies to adequately detect  
4 and validate environmental risk factors associated with  
5 floating offshore wind deployment in California.

6           Additionally, the integrated sensor package must  
7 be durable enough to withstand ocean conditions in the  
8 Humboldt and Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas and must be  
9 validated in a laboratory environment. None of these  
10 projects propose field testing in California waters. The  
11 following proposed awards represent all the projects we  
12 plan to award from this solicitation. Next slide please.

13           The first proposed award is with Integral  
14 Consulting to design a continuous, real-time, automated  
15 detection and identification system to inform seabird risk  
16 models and potentially, mitigation measures. The proposed  
17 monitoring system will integrate three existing sensor  
18 technologies: radar, 3D thermal imaging, and blade-mounted  
19 vibration sensors, to detect seabird movement and behavior  
20 patterns at the far, medium, and short ranges respectively.

21           In addition, the recipient will be integrating  
22 artificial intelligence to help characterize the data into  
23 information that can be easily interpreted for decision  
24 makers and enable more automated monitoring, thereby  
25 reducing in person environmental monitoring requirements.

1           The results of this project will be increased  
2 understanding of potential risks to seabirds and inform  
3 seabird strike models. Next slide please.

4           The next proposed award is with Lawrence Berkeley  
5 National Laboratory, or LBNL. LBNL is proposing a sensing  
6 package using multiple advanced fiber optic sensing  
7 technologies, including distributed acoustic, temperature,  
8 and strain sensing, which can be integrated into a braided  
9 mooring line. Combining these technologies will allow for  
10 concurrent monitoring of marine mammal movement and  
11 vocalization, marine debris entanglement, wind farm  
12 operational noise, ocean water column profiling, as well as  
13 ocean floor sediment movement and earthquakes.

14           Anticipated benefits from this project include  
15 increasing resiliency and reliability for floating offshore  
16 wind infrastructure by providing real-time continuous  
17 monitoring data on environmental conditions and potential  
18 issues such as marine mammal entanglement and collision.  
19 Next slide, please.

20           The third proposed project is with the Humboldt  
21 State University Sponsored Programs Foundation, led by the  
22 Schatz Energy Research Center, and it will address a  
23 critical concern of floating offshore wind stakeholders by  
24 designing a system that detects secondary entanglement  
25 hazards from marine debris and wildlife interactions with

1 mooring lines.

2           The system will include stress and strain sensor  
3 and a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, to identify and  
4 validate the source of the strain. A simulation of a  
5 floating offshore wind farm will be used to model what  
6 normal strain on mooring lines looks like to a sensor and  
7 then compare that with strain from a marine mammal  
8 collision or entangled marine debris.

9           This model, the data from this model will be used  
10 to detect these strain signals and signal an ROV to  
11 validate the source and location of the strain. The  
12 project will address environmental, technical, and safety  
13 challenges and anticipated benefits will include a better  
14 understanding of marine debris entanglement risks and how  
15 mooring lines behave when these events occur. This could  
16 lead to increased safety and reliability with remote  
17 monitoring and environmental benefits by reducing risks to  
18 marine wildlife. Next slide please.

19           Staff recommends the Commission approve the three  
20 proposed awards under this solicitation and adopt staff's  
21 determination that action is exempt from CEQA. That  
22 concludes my presentation, and I would be happy to answer  
23 any questions that I can.

24           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you very much for  
25 that presentation.

1           Madam Public Advisor, any public comment?

2           MS. BADIE: Hello, this is Mona Badie, the Public  
3 Advisor at the California Energy Commission. The  
4 Commission now welcomes public comment on Item 10.

5           If you're in the room we ask that you use the QR  
6 code to notify us you'd like to make a comment. And if  
7 you're on Zoom, please use the raise hand feature. And if  
8 you're joining us by phone press \*9 to let us know you'd  
9 like to make a comment.

10           We don't have any in room comments, so I'll move  
11 to Zoom. There is a phone number ending in 754. I'm going  
12 to open your line. If you could please state and spell  
13 your name for the record, any affiliation, and you may  
14 begin your comment. (No audible response.)

15           All right, I think this one might be left over  
16 from the last item. So I'm going to move on to Kelly Boyd.  
17 Kelly Boyd, I'm going to open your line. If you could  
18 spell your name for the record, state any affiliation, and  
19 begin your comment. We are asking for comments to be  
20 limited to two minutes or less. I'm going to open your  
21 line now. (No audible response.) Kelly, please unmute on  
22 your end and begin your comment. Kelly, your line is open.  
23 We don't hear any audio on your end. Okay, I'm going to  
24 move on to the next commenter, and I can come back to you  
25 Kelly, if you adjust your audio settings.

1           So the next commenter is Nikola Lakic. Please  
2 state your affiliation and limit your comments to two  
3 minutes or less. I'm going to open your line. Again, this  
4 is for Item 10.

5           MR. LAKIC: Can you hear me?

6           MS. BADIE: Yes.

7           MR. LAKIC: Thank you. Just my name is Nikola,  
8 N-I-K-O-L-A, same like Nikola Tesla, Lakic, L-A-K-I-C, from  
9 Geothermal Worldwide.

10           A question for gentleman Mark Danielson, this is  
11 regarding Item 10. What's the ratio of the production that  
12 you expect from wind and maintenance? Can you give any  
13 info about that? Can you elaborate on that a little bit?

14           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Mr. Lakic, this is a  
15 comment period. So we'll take that comment under  
16 consideration.

17           MR. LAKIC: Oh, I thought that he's asking for  
18 question, somebody to ask a question. Okay, I'm sorry. In  
19 that case, sorry.

20           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: No worries. Thank you.

21           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22           Next, we'll move on to Kelly, I'm going to try to  
23 open your line again.

24           MS. BOYD: Thank you.

25           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I would encourage

1 anyone who does have questions about anything we vote on to  
2 submit a question to the Public Advisor and we can channel  
3 it through to staff, so that we can get an answer.

4 MS. BOYD: Thank you. Are you able to hear me  
5 this time? This is Kelly.

6 MS. BADIE: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Yes, we can.

8 MS. BOYD: Thank you. Kelly Boyd, K-E-L-L-Y B-O-  
9 Y-D, with Equinor, the Director of Policy Development and  
10 Regulatory for the West Coast. I just wanted to advise  
11 Equinor supports the funding of these grants under Item 10  
12 to develop additional monitoring technologies, including an  
13 environmental monitoring sensor package, study of avian  
14 marine mammal and ocean environmental impacts, and  
15 interaction with floating offshore wind technologies and  
16 operation -- great opportunity to expand upon ongoing  
17 monitoring capabilities and durability. Thanks very much.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 Next, we have Scott Morgan. I'm going to open  
20 your line, Scott. Please spell your name for the record,  
21 state any affiliation, and you may begin. Scott, your line  
22 is open. Scott, we're not hearing any audio on your end,  
23 but your line is open and I don't believe you're muted.

24 Okay, we have one more commenter, Marcus C.

25 Scott, if you want to adjust your audio settings we'll move

95

1 on to the next comment and I'll try you again.

2           Marcus C, I'm going to open your line if you  
3 could state and spell your full name for the record, any  
4 affiliation, and you may begin your comment.

5           MR. CHEVITARESE: Hello, my name is Marcus  
6 Chevitarese. That's M-A-R-C-U-S C-H-E-V-I-T-A-R-E-S-E.  
7 I'm with Sightir, Inc. and we are on one of the teams. So  
8 I'm calling to express my support for this item, and say  
9 that the technology that we're developing is sought after  
10 from developers and people around the world. There's a lot  
11 of interest in what we're doing. And California is really  
12 putting itself in a place to have the most advanced  
13 environmental monitoring system, and this is a great  
14 opportunity. And so I just want to say thank you, and  
15 encourage approval. Thank You.

16           MS. BADIE: Thank you.

17           Scott, let's try your line again. I'm going to  
18 open your line up, if you unmute on your end, then you can  
19 begin your comment.

20           MR. MORGAN: Can you hear me now?

21           MS. BADIE: Yes.

22           MR. MORGAN: It's Scott Morgan, S-C-O-T-T M-O-R-  
23 G-A-N, with Golden State Wind. I just want to voice our  
24 support of these items, and looking forward to seeing the  
25 research projects move forward. Thank you.

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

2 That concludes public comment. Back to you,  
3 Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thanks to  
5 all the commenters on these items.

6 We'll move to Commissioner discussion. And let's  
7 see, I guess maybe I'll just jump in quickly that our bet  
8 on offshore wind, and our goals for offshore wind are  
9 humongous. And these are significant infrastructure  
10 investments that we're looking at. And I just want to  
11 support birds and sea mammals and debris entrainment, is  
12 all our key issues we've heard from stakeholders that are  
13 important. And good to see our team developing solutions.

14 Commissioner Gallardo.

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes. Well, thank you so  
16 much, Mark, for your presentation. Also, the briefing.  
17 And I'm fascinated by offshore wind and the possibilities  
18 it has for our state to move us off fossil fuels. And I  
19 think as we take steps forward, we need to be very careful  
20 about the impacts, including to the environment, to animals  
21 to people.

22 So I'm excited about this. And as one of the  
23 commenters said potentially these monitoring technologies  
24 can make us a leader again. And I love that California has  
25 that opportunity in with these investments that we're

1 making here. So I support this item for those reasons.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLSITER: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Monahan.

4 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I also think  
5 building on what you both have said, that we do have these  
6 really ambitious goals for offshore wind. And we're  
7 cognizant that we're breaking new ground in terms of  
8 deepwater offshore wind. There's a lot of technical  
9 questions. There's a lot of questions about the impact to  
10 the environment. I think there's as your briefing  
11 highlighted to me earlier, we have information on sort of  
12 avian impacts from offshore wind and other locations, but  
13 some of this deep sea implications of having these deep sea  
14 floating offshore wind turbines, we don't understand.

15 And so that idea of we want to make sure, as we  
16 move forward with this clean energy economy, that we're  
17 doing all we can to protect against the negative impacts of  
18 these technologies. They all have negative impacts. And  
19 we're trying to do it in a way that's going to be most  
20 protective of the environment. And I think especially as  
21 we think about large sea mammals, and migration patterns,  
22 just really understanding implications and doing all we can  
23 to protect the environment as we build out a clean energy  
24 economy is critical.

25 So, I just strongly support these and recognize

1 there's a lot of unanswered questions that we are trying to  
2 answer quickly before we actually start constructing these.

3 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great, well, thanks for  
4 that. I can't quite get my head around the breaking new  
5 ground in offshore wind. I'm not sure when --

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Oh my gosh, my metaphors  
7 are terrible.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: But very exciting.  
9 Very exciting to be moving ahead with this. So I would  
10 entertain a motion.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item  
12 Number 10.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

14 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All in --

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Oh wait is it 10 or 11?

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLSITER: I think it's --

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Did I mess up?

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: No, it's 10. It's 10.

19 (Off-mic colloquy.)

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: But we'll hear more  
21 about offshore wind in a bit. So I have a motion and a  
22 second. All in favor. Commissioner Gallardo.

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

1           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.  
2 This item passes 3-0. Mark, thanks very much, really great  
3 presentation. Really appreciate it, exciting.

4           And we will move now to Item 11, Advancing  
5 Designs for Floating Offshore Wind Mooring Lines and  
6 Anchors. So Mark Danielson again, please.

7           MR. DANIELSON: Hello, again, Commissioners. My  
8 name is Mark Danielson. I am a Senior Environmental  
9 Scientist in the Energy Research and Development Division.  
10 I am presenting three out of the four proposed awards from  
11 our recent EPIC solicitation: Advancing Designs for  
12 Floating Offshore Wind Mooring Lines and Anchors. The  
13 fourth, and final proposed award will be presented at the  
14 August Business Meeting. Next slide, please.

15           Floating offshore wind deployments in current  
16 California Wind Energy Areas are expected to be in waters  
17 as deep as 1,300 meters, which is far deeper than existing  
18 floating offshore wind deployments in other countries.  
19 Future Wind Energy Areas may be identified in even deeper  
20 waters, so more research is needed to better address unique  
21 design challenges to account for these depths.

22           The proposed projects from this solicitation will  
23 advance new designs and technology specifically for the  
24 deep waters, and also address the weather and seismicity in  
25 the California Wind Energy Areas. These projects will also

1 focus on the local workforce and supply chain constraints  
2 in California by reducing fabrication and installation  
3 costs, and designs were selected to minimize potential  
4 environmental impacts associated with mooring and anchoring  
5 floating offshore wind turbines. Next slide, please.

6 Each project from this solicitation will advance  
7 the design of either mooring lines, anchors, or shared  
8 mooring and anchor configurations for floating offshore  
9 wind turbines.

10 Additionally, the proposed designs must be  
11 validated in a laboratory environment to provide a level of  
12 confidence for the offshore wind and maritime industries.  
13 None of these projects propose field testing in California  
14 waters. The following proposed awards represent three of  
15 the four projects we plan to award from this solicitation.  
16 Next slide, please.

17 The first proposed award is with the University  
18 of Maine to develop a deep-water mooring line system using  
19 synthetic materials which will focus on reducing hardware  
20 and connections to increase ease of installation of  
21 floating offshore wind turbines.

22 The project plans on customizing the mooring  
23 system to seafloor conditions found in the Humboldt Wind  
24 Energy Area and will address utility scale life cycle and  
25 supply chain constraints through the use of alternative

1 mooring materials, load reduction devices, and potential  
2 use of shared anchors. The recipient also plans to work  
3 with a third-party verification agency on their final  
4 design to streamline industry acceptance.

5 Anticipated benefits of this project include the  
6 estimated reduction in capital expenditure costs of  
7 floating offshore wind deployments by up to 50 percent  
8 through replacing chain mooring line components with  
9 synthetic materials. Next slide, please.

10 The next proposed award from this solicitation is  
11 with RCAM Technologies and will focus on the design and  
12 development of two anchor types: a concrete suction anchor  
13 and torpedo anchor, both using low-cost 3D concrete  
14 printing methods. The suction anchor is essentially an  
15 inverted bucket that is dropped into the sediment and  
16 creates negative pressure in the anchor by pumping out  
17 water.

18 The torpedo anchor is a steel pile that is  
19 installed by free fall through the water before penetrating  
20 the seabed. Currently both these anchor types are  
21 typically made of steel and are some the most expensive  
22 anchors to manufacture. They have a very large carbon  
23 footprint, and are often imported, which increases  
24 transport costs.

25 This project would work to solve those issues

1 through using locally available and sustainably sourced  
2 concrete materials and reducing costs with a 3D concrete  
3 printing method that has been advanced by RCAM through a  
4 current agreement with the CEC, thereby bringing local  
5 supply chain and workforce benefits, as well as economic  
6 and environmental benefits. Next slide, please.

7           The final proposed award I am presenting today is  
8 with the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, the entity that  
9 manages and operates the National Renewable Energy  
10 Laboratory, or NREL. They will develop comprehensive  
11 shared mooring and anchor system solutions, such as the  
12 hybrid design shown in the diagram here, which minimize the  
13 costs, failure risks, and environmental impacts of gigawatt  
14 scale floating wind farms in California site conditions.

15           The approach combines state of the art techniques  
16 for sharing mooring lines and anchors with installation and  
17 maintenance innovations that bring additional cost  
18 reductions and reliability improvements.

19           Anticipated benefits for this project include  
20 minimizing costs through smaller components and reducing  
21 the number of required installations, an estimated 40 to 50  
22 percent cost reduction, as well as increased safety by  
23 designing the mooring system for redundancy in case one  
24 mooring line fails, others can provide stability. Next  
25 slide, please.

1           Staff recommends the Commission approve the three  
2 proposed awards under this solicitation and adopt staff's  
3 determination that action is exempt from CEQA. That  
4 concludes my presentation, and I'd be happy to answer any  
5 questions from the Commissioners that I can.

6           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you,  
7 Mark.

8           Madam Public Advisor.

9           MS. BADIE: Yes. The Commission now welcomes  
10 public comment on Item 11. If you're in the room please  
11 use the QR code. And if you are joining us by Zoom, please  
12 use the raise hand feature, or \*9 if you are on the phone.

13           We don't have any in-room commenters, so I'm  
14 going to move to Zoom. Molly Croll I'm going to open your  
15 line. If you can spell your name for the record, state any  
16 affiliation. We're asking comments to be limited to two  
17 minutes or less. You may begin.

18           MS. CROLL: Hi, my name is Molly Croll, M-O-L-L-  
19 Y C-R-O-L-L, with the American Clean Power Association.  
20 ACP California is a clean energy trade association  
21 representing utility scale developers of clean energy in  
22 the state including all five offshore wind leaseholders.

23           We support the CEC's proposed awards under both  
24 Item 10, just discussed, and this Item 11. The CEC has  
25 demonstrated ongoing commitment to advance science and

1 technological innovation, which will help position  
2 California as a global leader in the development of a  
3 robust, sustainable floating offshore wind industry.

4 The proposed awards for environmental monitoring  
5 and mooring and anchoring design serve this goal and we  
6 respectfully ask for the Commission's approval. Thank you.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you. Next, we have Jason  
8 Cotrell. Jason, if you can spell your name for the record  
9 and open your line,- I mean, unmute your line, you may  
10 begin.

11 MR. COTRELL: Yes, this is Jason Cotrell. I'm  
12 the Founder and CEO of RCAM Technologies. My first name is  
13 spelled Jason, J-A-S-O-N, and Cotrell is spelled C-O-T-R-E-  
14 L-L.

15 So, yes, I'd like to thank the Commission for its  
16 support, hopefully on this award, and certainly on past  
17 projects. I wanted to take this opportunity, in addition  
18 to expressing our appreciation, to reiterate how important  
19 the Commission's support has been for what has essentially  
20 been the creation of an entire new industry of using 3D  
21 concrete printing technologies for renewable energy  
22 applications.

23 You may recall, after working at Enron for 20  
24 years, I left to start RCAM Technologies. And the first  
25 grant that I received was a CEC award that allowed us to

1 explore the use for the concrete wind turbine towers and  
2 foundations. That funding was, I believe, still today, the  
3 first ever public funding for these technologies to be  
4 applied to renewable energy.

5           And today, you may not be aware that we have  
6 expanded our portfolio of products to about 10 different  
7 products in various stages of development that include  
8 anchors, potentially foundations, subsea energy storage for  
9 multiple industries, including land based and offshore  
10 wind, land based and offshore solar, and also wave energy.

11           And there's some additional products on the way  
12 that are still confidential, that would help cover  
13 California Solar canals, parking lots, and also potential  
14 installation, hydropower reservoirs. And hopefully I'll be  
15 able to share that with you soon.

16           And just to finally cap this off, you know, we  
17 are doing most of this work in the Port of Los Angeles.  
18 We've hosted tours for over 1,000 different community  
19 members, and we hope to see you there sometime in the near  
20 future. Thank you.

21           MS. BADIE: Thank you. Next, we have Kelly Boyd.  
22 I'm going to open your line, Kelly. Please state your name  
23 and affiliation, and you may begin.

24           MS. BOYD: Thank you. Can you hear me?

25           MS. BADIE: Yes.

1 MS. BOYD: Thank you. Kelly Boyd, K-E-L-L-Y B-O-  
2 Y-D, again, with Equinor, also supporting Item 11. We  
3 support the funding of these grants to allow exploration of  
4 innovative technologies, provide opportunity for commercial  
5 contribution from developers toward those solutions.

6 We hope the final scoped programs under these  
7 grants will provide more focused development of localized  
8 supply chain and job creation, in addition to more  
9 innovative, lower environmental profile technologies  
10 associated with floating offshore wind development and  
11 operation in California. Thank you.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

13 Next, we have Scott Morgan. Scott, I'm going to  
14 open your line. Please unmute on your end and you may  
15 begin. Scott, your line is open. Scott, I'm showing your  
16 line as unmuted. I'm going to move on to the next caller  
17 if you want to adjust your audio settings.

18 The next caller has a phone number ending in 031.  
19 I'm going to open your line. You'll press star six to  
20 unmute. Please state and spell your name for the record.  
21 State any affiliation as well and then you may begin your  
22 comment. Phone number ending in 031, please press \*6 to  
23 unmute.

24 MS. KESTER: Good afternoon, Commissioners. This  
25 is Aaron Kester with RWE Renewables. Can you hear me?

107

1 MS. BADIE: Yes.

2 MS. KESTER: Thank you so much. Again, my name  
3 is Aaron Kester, E-R-I-N K-E-S-T-E-R, and I work for RWE  
4 Renewables as Director of Government Relations.

5 RWE is one of the companies who was recently  
6 awarded an offshore wind lease in federal waters. Ours is  
7 located off the coast of Humboldt County. RWE would like  
8 to express support for both Items 10 and 11.

9 On today's agenda, I first would like to express  
10 appreciation to the Commission on their great work to  
11 advance offshore wind in the state through AB 525, and  
12 through these important proposed research and development  
13 projects for offshore wind.

14 RWE is proud to serve on the advisory board for  
15 all of the projects related to Item 11. And we look  
16 forward to seeing innovative technology proposals, and to  
17 provide our company's subject matter expertise if and when  
18 appropriate in the advisory capacity.

19 These projects, as mentioned earlier, will help  
20 position California as a leader in the development of  
21 floating offshore wind, globally. And we look forward to  
22 seeing the results of these investments. Thank you so  
23 much. I appreciate this opportunity to provide support.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25 Scott Morgan, I'm going to try to open your line

1           again. Please unmute on your end, and you may begin  
2           making your comment.

3           MR. MORGAN: Scott Morgan, can you hear me?

4           MS. BADIE: Yes.

5           MR. MORGAN: Yes. Scott Morgan, S-C-O-T-T M-O-R-  
6 G-A-N, with Golden State Wind. And I echo both the  
7 comments of Molly, Kelly and Erin. We are supportive of  
8 the research items under Item 11 and look forward to seeing  
9 how this research turns out. Thank you very much.

10          MS. BADIE: Thank you. That concludes public  
11 comment for Item 11. Back to you, Commissioner. Great.  
12 Thank you, Mona, I appreciate that.

13          And thank you all to the commenters, Molly and  
14 Jason, Kelly, Scott, Erin, really appreciate your presence,  
15 and all you're doing as well as partners.

16          Let's see, I guess, I -- Offshore Wind, obviously  
17 this is the second of a two part series here in this  
18 meeting. And the moorings is a huge problem, or a huge  
19 question really in terms of how we go about it in such deep  
20 water, and the anchoring, disruption of marine life, all  
21 the issues that talked about in the last item. But the  
22 technical challenges, we just can't underestimate them. So  
23 I'm really glad to see us investing in solutions.

24          We need to be able to industrialize this as  
25 quickly as possible if we're going to meet 25 gigawatts of

1 offshore wind in the next couple of decades. So it's hard  
2 to overestimate the lift. And really, we need all those  
3 solutions to get into industrialization and production  
4 mode. So, very supportive of these items. Any other  
5 comments?

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Just that how important  
7 it is to focus on the durability of this equipment. And I  
8 think this is one of the things that does keep me up at  
9 night when I think about offshore wind. So I'm glad that  
10 we're also investing in these types of studies and  
11 technologies. And I just want to say that this proves that  
12 this work is groundbreaking. Right, Commissioner Monahan?

13 Thank you again, Mark, for a great presentation  
14 and all the information you provided during the briefing as  
15 well.

16 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan?  
17 No?

18 I will just inject an anecdote here. Back in the  
19 day back when I was a project engineer, I installed a few  
20 small wind systems in coastal environments and it is  
21 brutal. Just the wear and tear of that sailing environment  
22 on equipment is just -- it eats it in very short order, if  
23 you're not designed for it.

24 And so your moorings are going to take a lot of  
25 beating. And as we know, the weather off the coast can be

1 pretty brutal as well. So these solutions are critical.

2 So I don't have any further questions. And  
3 thanks again, mark for the presentation. And I would  
4 entertain a motion.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item  
6 11.

7 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All those in favor.  
9 Commissioner Gallardo.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

12 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.  
14 So this item passes 3-0. Thank you very much.

15 All right. Well, thanks to all the presenters  
16 from staff, we really appreciate your work today.

17 Moving on to Item 12, the minutes. I think all  
18 three of us were at the last meeting. So I would entertain  
19 a motion to --

20 MS. BADIE: Commissioner, I want to do public  
21 comment first, if that's okay.

22 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm  
23 sorry. Yeah, go ahead.

24 MS. BADIE: The Commission now welcomes the  
25 public comments for Item 12, minutes from the last business

111

1 meeting. If you'd like to make a comment and you're in the  
2 room, we ask that you use the QR code. If you're on Zoom,  
3 please use the raise hand feature. And if you're joining  
4 by phone, press \*9 to let us know I'd like to make a  
5 comment.

6 I'm not seeing any raised hands. Back to you,  
7 Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Thank you,  
9 Public Advisor.

10 I'll entertain a motion to -- or any comments?  
11 And if not then a motion to adopt the minutes.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item  
13 12.

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right, all those in  
16 favor. Commissioner Gallardo.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Commissioner Monahan.

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: And I vote aye as well.  
21 So minutes are adopted. Thank you.

22 And we'll move on to Lead Commissioner or  
23 Presiding Member Reports. Commissioner Monahan, would you  
24 be okay starting? Great.

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, so, it's been a busy

1 time of travel. But actually, before I talk about what  
2 I've been doing I want to introduce our newest team  
3 member. So Ethan, do you want to stand up? This is Ethan.  
4 I'm going to embarrass him. He's a senior at Stanford and  
5 he's majoring in chemical engineering. He also plays the  
6 saxophone. And he's helping us on a variety of things,  
7 including the Energy Policy Report that Ben Wender from my  
8 office is helping shepherd with me. And he's really diving  
9 deep into all the comments that we've gotten on how do we  
10 speed interconnection of clean energy resources on the  
11 grid. And Ethan is really interested in this intersection  
12 of translating science and communicating it.

13           So we're putting him right to work, hard at work.  
14 And you know, he follows in the footsteps of some great  
15 CECers, including Terra Weeks who also came from this  
16 program. So we're just grateful to have him in our office.

17           And you can sit down, sorry to embarrass you.  
18 Well, not actually, I'm not really sorry.

19           So on the life-work front, I've been doing as I  
20 said a lot of traveling. So most recently I was in  
21 Buffalo, New York, visiting a tire manufacturer. As you  
22 all know, we're working on tire efficiency for replacement  
23 tires, and really trying to understand the industry,  
24 understand how we can work with the industry to improve the  
25 efficiency of tires, replacement tires.

1           We got to visit the Sumitomo tire facility, which  
2 was awesome. And it had 1,500 employees at the facility.  
3 They're all union labor and it was pretty cool. Some of  
4 the equipment had been around since the 1950s and then some  
5 was brand new. So just pretty interesting to see how  
6 scientific the tire manufacturing process is. So that was  
7 a fun trip to Buffalo. We also got to go to Niagara Falls,  
8 which I had never seen before.

9           Last week we had our first ever ports  
10 collaborative meeting in person. It was at the Oakland  
11 Port. And Patricia Carlos was the lead for pulling that  
12 together and everybody loved it, got a lot of positive  
13 feedback. And we also got participation from Tony Tavares  
14 who had Caltrans, and Giles -- I'm going to mess up his  
15 last name -- who's the Chief of Staff for Secretary  
16 Omashakan. And so we were -- and we had participation with  
17 GoBiz.

18           And it was really nice to have this, like, all  
19 the ports, many of the many of the major ports there in  
20 person, some on the phone, and then to have leadership from  
21 the State of California there as well. It was a great,  
22 great day, great conversation.

23           And I think you guys all know, ports are really  
24 trying to zero out their missions. They have big  
25 equipment, they're critical for goods movement. We've had

1 a lot of constraints on the supply chain, so there's a lot  
2 of sensitivity there. Communities are impacted that live  
3 right near the ports, so they want things to go zero  
4 emission as soon as possible. There's a lot of different  
5 pressures that ports are under to decarbonize and keep  
6 goods moving swiftly. So it was a great conversation. The  
7 ports really appreciated that conversation. And we do it  
8 on a quarterly basis. And we're evaluating how frequently  
9 we'll do that in person as well.

10           Just yesterday I was in Long Beach with Chair  
11 Randolph from the Air Resources Board doing a ribbon  
12 cutting for the biggest truck, public truck charging depot  
13 in the country. And we funded it so it was WattEV. And  
14 they're doing this innovative trying to do trucking as a  
15 service model. So to help smaller truckers who may find it  
16 just daunting to electrify. And they provide the trucks,  
17 they provide the charging, it's like a one stop shop for  
18 all of those services. So that was really cool to be able  
19 to commemorate that.

20           Multiple other trips, but I won't go into all of  
21 them. The last one I'll talk about though is Sylmar, which  
22 is this transportation conference that UC Davis puts on and  
23 I'm on the organizing committee. And I've been going since  
24 I was a wee little analyst at Lawrence Berkeley National  
25 Lab, so for a long time.

1           And now it's like it was really tiny, and  
2 intimate. Now, it's like big and still intimate. It's  
3 just a great place. I know you've been there many times  
4 for efficiency, but it was really fun. And as somebody  
5 who's been going for decades, it's just for me it's like an  
6 emotional experience too to see how the network has grown  
7 and the advocates have grown and how much attention there  
8 is on transportation, electrification, and infrastructure.

9           So we did several surveys, everybody agreed  
10 infrastructure is the issue. It's not the vehicles  
11 anymore. It's the infrastructure. So it just kind of  
12 cemented that the work we're doing is so important to be  
13 able to reach our goals for clean transportation.

14           On the other work side of the Integrated Energy  
15 Policy Report is a big thing. So trying to figure out how  
16 to move forward with good recommendations that are coming  
17 at it from a cross agency perspective. I can't say enough  
18 about my appreciation for Ben Lender who is helping me with  
19 this. And for Heather and the team on the IEPR side.  
20 We're trying to make it a California energy policy report  
21 that requires deep collaboration with our sister agencies.  
22 And we need to move forward with recommendations to move  
23 more swiftly.

24           The budget process has been somewhat challenging.  
25 We had hoped to have ABH reauthorized. And it seemed very

1 close, but it didn't happen yet. There's still work to be  
2 done on that front. So trying to get to the finish line on  
3 reauthorizing our \$100 million per year program.

4 You may have heard that, that there was an  
5 announcement about Tesla chargers. This is -- no? What  
6 are you guys reading? Sorry to mock you.

7 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We've been on mute  
8 (indiscernible).

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: What's happening? So  
10 Tesla has a specific plug that's different than the rest of  
11 the industry. And automakers are announcing like GM and  
12 Ford that they're moving to the Tesla system. That's  
13 caused us to rethink what should we do in terms of funding  
14 chargers? Should we fund chargers that are just for CCS?  
15 Should we fund chargers that are both CCS and NAC? Sorry  
16 for all the acronyms. The Tesla charger versus the charger  
17 that had been the standard? And basically, we recognize  
18 that there needs to be a formal process for the Tesla  
19 charger to have standards. It's called the SAE process.  
20 And they're going through that right now. So while that's  
21 happening we're just waiting to see do they reach the  
22 finish line with the SAE process on being able -- so other  
23 manufacturers can spec out the build-out of this charger.

24 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Can I ask a question?

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah.

1           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So the SAE process can  
2 take a long time. Is this kind of being fast tracked?

3           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: It's fast tracked.

4           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: It is, okay.

5           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: What fast track means  
6 remains to be stated, and we'll be engaged in that process.

7           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, great.

8           COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: And I think that's enough  
9 of my updates.

10          COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right. Thank you  
11 for that.

12          Commissioner Gallardo.

13          COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes, thank you.

14          I wanted to start out with gratitude. So, Linda  
15 Barrera and Lisa DeCarlo in particular, you've been helping  
16 me navigate some legal questions I've had. So I just  
17 wanted to let you know I really appreciate all the time you  
18 take to help me. I know that you have a lot on your plates  
19 already and adding a little bit more can be challenging.  
20 So thank you so much for that.

21          And then I want to move over to thank my team.  
22 Andrea McGarry has been my Interim Chief of Staff and is  
23 doing wonderful, helping me on all things. So I really  
24 appreciate you Andrea. And I introduced my one of my  
25 fellows, Valaria. She's been doing a wonderful job

1 supporting the Clean Energy Hall of Fame awards.

2 And I also wanted to embarrass my other team  
3 member. Camden, would you like to come up to the podium  
4 and introduce yourself? He gets nervous and I want him to  
5 have practice.

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I just want to say Ethan,  
7 you thought you had it bad.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Just make sure it's  
9 green.

10 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: The green light, you  
11 have to push -- there you go.

12 MR. BURK: I got it. I know technology. My name  
13 is Camden Burk, that's C-A-M-D-E-N B-U-R-K, I'll remember,  
14 I promise. I'm a Schultz Energy Fellow. I'm a Junior  
15 studying at Stanford as well. And I did not know you  
16 played saxophone. I played trumpet, so hit me up on that  
17 sometime.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: All right, we got a  
19 Jazz band in the making.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yay.

21 MR. BURK: Anyway, I'm currently an Energy Fellow  
22 in Commissioner Gallardo's office. And I came to this  
23 space because the CEC is really the tip of the spear in  
24 California's climate mitigation efforts. And this is  
25 really kind of nation and world leading policy. And it's

1 just such an honor to be able to work in that space. And I  
2 hope everyone here who kind of engaged in these efforts is  
3 always aware of how important the work all of you guys do  
4 is.

5 Just kind of keep that in mind. I won't take too  
6 much of your time. But again, I really appreciate you all  
7 being here and for letting me speak.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much Camden.  
9 And I really appreciate the spirit you bring to the work  
10 and the questions you ask. And I just want you to continue  
11 having that curiosity through the program here, even though  
12 it's kind of short; too short, right? But thank you,  
13 Camden.

14 All right. And then I wanted to show just a  
15 couple of images that my team helped me put together. The  
16 first one is a photo of me and the Chairman of the Soboba  
17 Band of Luiseño Indians you see there. So Katrina Leni-  
18 Konig who's our Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor  
19 has coordinated a series of visits to various tribes. And  
20 basically they're meet and greets. They're relationship  
21 building, just wonderful opportunities.

22 And we were able to visit Soboba. And they're  
23 very progressive, have done so much on the reservation to  
24 make it as clean as possible. And they have utilized EPIC  
25 funds to set up a micro grid for a fire station on their

120

1 site. And this fire station is incredible because it also  
2 benefits the surrounding community. And the communities  
3 nearby will call upon the Soboba Fire Department for  
4 support.

5 So it's just great to see how much of a ripple  
6 effect our investments can make. So benefiting the tribe  
7 and other communities. I don't know if we have another  
8 image here, but that's the fire station in the background  
9 there.

10 And then they're also going to be putting, they  
11 have solar -- ground mounted solar out there. And they  
12 also are going to be putting solar on their casino  
13 rooftops. So just really exciting things that the Soboba  
14 Tribe is doing. And then I'll update you on the other  
15 visits that we have that are coming.

16 Another visit we did in my team, and with  
17 Elizabeth Huber and some members of the STEP Division, is  
18 to visit California ISO. We went to the facility on  
19 Monday. They gave us a tour of the control room and talked  
20 to us about what they do, how they do it. And it's  
21 exciting to have a partnership with them. And Elliot and  
22 Mark were both there, leaders of CAISO. And were just so  
23 receptive to building our relationship engaging with us  
24 learning from us. And it's -- I don't get to engage with  
25 them as often as other of our Commissioners, so I'm not so

1 focused on reliability. But it was nice to be able to  
2 visit. And I encourage other staff members to visit the  
3 facility. It's beautiful. And they even said that, you  
4 know, they'd be open to having retreats there and things  
5 like that.

6           So they have the space at the front, it's very  
7 educational. They have photos and graphs and all kinds of  
8 things showing the history of the CAISO and then also all  
9 kinds of energy information. So for us energy nerds it is  
10 a fun place to go. So happy to talk more about those  
11 details, if anyone's interested in visiting.

12           And then finally, I think that's the last photo.  
13 Correct? Yes, thank you. So after the CAISO visit that  
14 was on Monday. And then I went and headed over to Renton,  
15 Washington for the Unlocking Pathways Summit. This is an  
16 event that's put together by the Department of Education.  
17 So at the federal level, the Department of Education, and  
18 Department of Transportation.

19           And they were focused on workforce, and how  
20 bringing together folks who are experts in education and  
21 folks who are experts in transportation, and what can we do  
22 there? How can we connect high schools, the trades,  
23 community colleges to figure out pathways for students that  
24 are not the traditional, you have to go to a four year  
25 college or nothing.

1           So it was wonderful to be able to connect with  
2 all of these federal leaders, and other state  
3 representatives who went as well including Caltrans folks,  
4 Labor Workforce Development Agency, California Workforce  
5 Development Board.

6           And I felt like Patty, you should have been there  
7 too, or Commissioner Monahan, excuse me. There's an  
8 opportunity that the California Workforce Development Board  
9 is setting up to go to Portland and have folks from  
10 California, from Oregon and from Washington all go to  
11 Portland and talk about what we can do further in the  
12 transportation space. So I said definitely include Energy  
13 Commission, we're interested. That's probably going to be  
14 more suitable for Commissioner Monahan to attend. So I  
15 will connect you with them, so we can talk more about that  
16 opportunity.

17           And then we also talked about the potential for  
18 offshore wind, to do something similar. Apparently,  
19 there's high schools that focus on maritime, so I thought  
20 that would be a great opportunity to get those high schools  
21 connected. Maybe even with our community colleges who are  
22 setting up curriculum focused on offshore wind, and seeing  
23 what we can do to fill all those positions that offshore  
24 wind is going to create. It's like 30,000 or more. So we  
25 need to make sure that, you know, we're thinking about

1 that.

2           And I also talked to them about Lithium Valley  
3 and the opportunities there, so it was fun. I'm going to  
4 share more details with the Chair and Vice Chair about, you  
5 know, connecting on the offshore wind opportunity. But I'm  
6 really happy I was able to represent the Energy Commission  
7 and looking forward to more of those types of visits, and  
8 engagements. And that's it for me.

9           COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Great. Well, thank you  
10 very much. And I'm looking forward to going down and  
11 visiting some of the sites for geothermal down south at  
12 some point with you. I'll be partnering with you and with  
13 the Chair coming up in the not too distant future.

14           Just a few updates. I wanted to just start with  
15 just acknowledging a few of the teams that are doing a lot  
16 of great work right now. First, the Equitable Building  
17 Decarbonization team, which is really a joint effort  
18 between Efficiency Division and the READY Division, Deana  
19 and her team in REDDI, and Mike Sokol and his team in  
20 Efficiency Division.

21           The guidelines for that program are really  
22 shaping up. And I would really recommend everyone to look  
23 at them. We're trying to connect a lot of dots with  
24 building electrification, building decarbonization. Many  
25 of the themes that have come up in this meeting, workforce,

1 including things like tenant protections, and really  
2 justice issues, broadly beyond what we typically deal with  
3 in the energy sphere. And so trying to really create a  
4 program that can provide a long term platform for scale.  
5 So just our team has been working really well together  
6 across divisions. And those guidelines are shaping up and  
7 they'll be in front of you at some future business meeting  
8 in the not too distant future.

9           And along those lines I wanted to just remind  
10 folks that we have the Building Electrification Summit,  
11 October 10th' and 11th. I want to acknowledge my Chief of  
12 Staff, Brian Early for really spearheading that along with  
13 Morgan Shepard also in my office. And it's shaping up to  
14 be a really a great event partnering with EPRI here in  
15 Sacramento at the CNRA headquarters.

16           And really the goal there is to do with building  
17 decarbonization what we have done in other sectors like  
18 solar like what's happening with EVs, like what we're  
19 trying to do with offshore wind. Really just be very clear  
20 and have a long-term vision that we can then execute on and  
21 really marshal resources and stakeholders to focus on.

22           And then the finance community to focus on really  
23 touching as many buildings as possible in our big state,  
24 with 50 million buildings that need some measure of  
25 decarbonization upgrades. So trying to really step set the

1 stage for a massive effort in the coming years to build on  
2 the programs now that we're going to be investing serious  
3 money in the near term.

4           So but I also wanted to just highlight the  
5 compliance team on the field verification diagnostic  
6 testing work, a couple of rulemakings happening there. And  
7 also the Building Standards team who's working on the 2025  
8 Update for Title 24. So both of those are very large lists  
9 and rulemakings that we'll be producing, big innovations  
10 for California as well.

11           Let's see. I wanted to -- so the last thing on  
12 sort of substantive issues. Just I think the Vice Chair  
13 brought this up last business meeting, but we have been  
14 having discussions around how to actually create regional  
15 energy markets. Resale regional wholesale energy markets.

16           And a letter was sent that was signed by a  
17 variety or group of Public Utility Commissioners and Energy  
18 Office officials from the clean energy states in the West.  
19 And that letter was sent to leadership at the Western  
20 Interstate Energy Board and CREPSI, (phonetic) which is a  
21 body that we also administer. And that is a group of  
22 energy of energy officers and PUC Commissioners from across  
23 all the Western interconnect states.

24           So really asking or sort of proposing a path  
25 forward for regional energy markets that include

1 California. And so it's really an early stage of the  
2 discussion that is really an invitation to all the states  
3 that want to participate to participate in fleshing out a  
4 vision for the west wet market that includes as many  
5 states, as many consumers as possible. Because that's how  
6 we all know we get the most benefit to consumers with a  
7 bigger market.

8           So anyway, just projecting that there will be  
9 more discussions coming on that. And we're trying to spark  
10 the conversation and I think successfully have done that.

11           I really want to commend President Reynolds from  
12 the PUC for her leadership on this, as well as Vice Chair  
13 Gunda for his leadership from our Commission. So exciting  
14 step forward, but early days in that conversation.

15           And then just a few personnel things. First, I  
16 wanted to since the last meeting, I believe we've been  
17 joined by Scott Blanc in the Efficiency Division. He comes  
18 over from SMUD where he's been a leader in the building  
19 decarbonization space for a long time, and energy  
20 efficiency.

21           And he is -- so Mike Sokol has done a bit of a --  
22 we've done a bit of a reorganization, restructuring a  
23 little bit of Efficiency Division with another two deputy  
24 directors. And so Scott will be operating as a deputy to  
25 Mike Sokol alongside Will Disset. (phonetic) So Scott is

127

1 the Deputy Director for Existing Buildings and Appliances.  
2 And then Will is focused more on new construction.

3 So welcome, Scott, really happy to have you in  
4 the building.

5 I also wanted to let folks know that my longtime  
6 Executive Assistant Laura Castañeda is back after maternity  
7 leave and with another baby girl. And actually, you'll see  
8 her as Laura Williams going forward since she also got  
9 married. So anyway congratulations, Laura, and welcome  
10 back. It's really good to have you back in the office.

11 And I wanted to thank Jan Mitchell for holding  
12 the fort incredibly, ably, while Laura was out. Really, it  
13 was a pleasure to work with Jan, and wish her the best in  
14 her now slightly scaled down role, although I think she's  
15 moving to the Chair's office so maybe not. But just really  
16 grateful to have that administrative support.

17 And then finally I wanted to just wish my Advisor  
18 Morgan Shepherd the best. She's in the room here and is  
19 headed off to graduate school at the Colorado School of  
20 Mines. And I think this is her last week. And so I really  
21 just want to thank you, Morgan, for all your contributions  
22 to just helping keep me prepared for all the different  
23 activities and including business meetings. And for your  
24 work on the upcoming symposium as well, or the summit  
25 rather. So I wish you all the best. And come back and

1 visit us and solve our -- any issues that might come up and  
2 load management standards. We're going to be looking to  
3 you to solve those analytically with your new training.  
4 And really just, I wish you all the best going forward.

5 And hopefully in the next business meeting, I'll  
6 have an announcement of a new advisor joining our team. So  
7 with that I'm going to wrap up my comments. Thanks very  
8 much.

9 So we can move on to Item 13, I believe. Oh no,  
10 Item 14, sorry, Executive Director's Report.

11 MS. BADIE: There's nothing to report today.

12 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you very much.

13 And turning to Item 15, Public Advisor's Report.

14 MS. BADIE: No report today, thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Thank you. And

16 finally, Item 16 Chief Counsel's Report.

17 MS. BARRERA: Nothing to report today.

18 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay, well, that was  
19 very easy. There we go.

20 So before we adjourn I wanted to -- really at the  
21 request of the Chair, but rightly so, wanted to acknowledge  
22 on behalf of the Commission that two of the victims in the  
23 plane crash two weeks ago in Southern California were doing  
24 important lithium work on behalf of CTR in the Salton Sea  
25 region.

1            Their names were Manny Vargas and Riese Lenders,  
2 and they were killed actually in that plane crash. And so  
3 we wanted to adjourn the meeting in their memory and for  
4 the other victims of the crash, so we'll pause before we  
5 adjourn.

6            (A moment of silence was observed.)

7            COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: We're thinking about  
8 Manny and Riese's families and all their colleagues who are  
9 mourning them. So with that we will adjourn the meeting.  
10 Thank you, everybody.

11           (The Business Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.)

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

