

DOCKETED

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Silicon Valley Clean Energy Direct Install Programs

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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November 15, 2023

California Energy Commission
715 P St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket 22-Decarb-03 - Silicon Valley Clean Energy Response to The Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program

Dear Commissioner McAllister,

Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCE) appreciates the California Energy Commission's (CEC) consideration of the agency's prior June 2023 comments filed jointly with Peninsula Clean Energy Authority (PCE) in the development of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program Final Guidelines.

At this time, SVCE wishes to reiterate some efforts that we hope to deploy in the coming months and develop experience and knowledge around equitable building decarbonization direct installation. SVCE believes its efforts to test approaches in our communities now could continue to help inform the CEC's ongoing roll-out of its the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program. SVCE is writing this comment to offer to share our data, stakeholder feedback, and results from these programs with CEC staff whenever there is interest, and will plan to submit comments to proactively share when there is another opportunity.

Founded in 2016, SVCE is a CCA that serves approximately 270,000 residential and commercial electricity customer accounts across a service area comprised of 13 Santa Clara County communities. SVCE provides electricity to 97% of electricity customers in SVCE's service area. SVCE is advancing customer programs for fuel switching to clean, carbon-free electricity to replace fossil fuels used in transportation, buildings, and infrastructure. SVCE has saved customers \$90 million on their electricity bills since 2017 and dedicated \$84 million to customer offers and services. SVCE's building decarbonization programs include incentives for residential and small- and medium-sized business customers.

SVCE intends to launch several residential direct install electrification programs in Spring/Summer 2024:

- **SVCE's Multifamily Electrification Program:** The intent of this \$12.5 million program is to make the transition to all-electric construction as simple and easy as possible for existing deed-restricted affordable multifamily properties.



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The program will test two deployment strategies: 1) a direct install option where contractors selected through a competitive bid process will provide technical assistance and building and transportation electrification upgrades at no-cost to the property owner or tenant, and 2) a gap funding grant option where properties that have already begun their retrofits can receive flexible, cost-capped incentives to “fill the gap” after all other third-party incentive sources have been exhausted. Before launching the program, SVCE will host a series of stakeholder engagement meetings with property owners and tenants to seek feedback on the initial program design. This feedback will be incorporated into the final program design before launch. SVCE intends to compensate participants for their time and will be testing different compensation methods to assess how to maximize engagement and user acceptance of electrification technologies. SVCE has selected a team comprising of a lead program administrator and licensed contractors for this program and intends to launch the program in Spring 2024.

- **Single Family Service Program:** This program builds on PCE’s existing Home Upgrade program, a direct install program for low-income residents. The program, which is anticipated to launch in Spring 2024, will expand its offerings to both low-income and market-rate single-family homeowners. Residents will have the opportunity to use contractors selected through a competitive bid process to make electrification upgrades. Building on the learnings of the TECH Clean California Pilot Grants, this program will also include an option for loaner water heaters for emergency replacements. This program will test deployment strategies with the goal of reducing overall program cost and installation time. SVCE has similar scale and faces the same barriers as PCE in electrifying single-family residences. SVCE is considering establishing similar services in its service territory using the same vendor as PCE. If established, this program will also complement SVCE’s existing home electrification rebates and will create a stronger regional workforce for electrification upgrades.

As an agency with connections in our local community and networks of community-based organizations, SVCE is well-positioned to test different program implementation and engagement strategies that best fit our communities’ diverse needs. SVCE hopes to demonstrate the success of our programs and identify challenges and potential solutions for future scalability. We would like to support the CEC team in whatever way is helpful as the Equitable Building Decarbonization program is rolled out – our program learnings, best practices, and challenges with the launch of our electrification direct install programs is information we will be happy to share with CEC staff.



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SVCE looks forward to continuing to work with the CEC and stakeholders. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Zagunis".

Justin Zagunis
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Director of Decarbonization Programs and Policy
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