

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	2024 Business Meeting Agendas, Transcripts, Minutes, and Public Comments
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California Energy Commission  
**Business Meeting Agenda**

January 24, 2024  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**In-person at:**

California Natural Resources Agency Building  
715 P Street  
First Floor Auditorium  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(Wheelchair Accessible)

**Remote Access via Zoom™**

<https://zoom.us/> Meeting ID: **938 6923 0237** Passcode: **mtg@10am**

Remote participation instructions are below, after the agenda items.

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. 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.

Please visit the CEC [Business Meeting web page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings) for more information and materials at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings>.

**THE CEC WILL CONSIDER AND MAY TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. Public Comment.**

Any person wishing to comment on information items (non-voting items) shall provide comments during this period.

**2. Agency Announcements.**

The Chair may announce relevant matters to the public and the CEC, including agency updates, events, and other opportunities. Discussion may follow.

**3. Consent Calendar.**

Items will be taken up and voted on as a group. A commissioner may request that an item be moved and discussed later in the meeting.

- a. City of Eureka. Proposed resolution approving amendment 2 to agreement 002-21-ECI, with the City of Eureka, to increase the loan amount by \$50,000, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEC previously approved a \$1,392,677 ECAA loan to fund the installation of two solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at two sites and a light emitting diode (LED) retrofit at one site in Eureka. The budget augmentation is being requested because the lowest bid for one of the solar PV systems is \$50,000 more than the original budget. The amendment will increase the total ECAA loan amount to \$1,442,677 and extend the simple payback period to 15.2 years. (ECAA Funding) Contact: Sean Lockwood
- b. EnergyHub, Inc. Proposed resolution approving an amendment to agreement EPC-20-011, for a novation changing the grant recipient from Packetized Energy Technologies, Inc. (Packetized Energy) to EnergyHub, Inc. due to EnergyHub, Inc.'s acquisition of Packetized Energy, and adopting staff's determination that this action will not alter the CEQA exemption findings in the original grant agreement approval. This grant funds the demonstration of an advanced load flexibility management platform to aggregate diverse groups of energy devices to respond in real-time to changing grid conditions. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Ayat Osman
- c. California Department of Food and Agriculture. Proposed resolution approving agreement 600-23-005 with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for a \$1,045,290 contract to procure fifteen mobile electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) measuring devices for evaluating and verifying electricity dispensed from EVSEs, in multiple counties; and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Bridey Scully
- d. Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. Proposed resolution approving amendment 1 to contract 800-22-008 with Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. to authorize the remaining \$886,705 from the originally approved \$1.5 million under the contractor's initial award. EPRI will support EAD's evaluation and comparison of different pathways for achieving California's clean energy goals as established in the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 100, De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018). (One Time General Fund) Contact: Hannah Craig
- e. Sentinel Energy Center (SEC) Petition to Amend (Docket 07-AFC-03C). Proposed order approving an amendment to SEC's license to add 17.18 MW of battery energy storage for black start capability, which allows the facility to begin operating without external assistance from the electric system and can assist with restoring power to the Los Angeles Basin grid in the event of a widespread system outage. Staff has concluded that the proposed amendment would not result in a significant impact on the environment, and the project would continue

to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

Contact: Elizabeth Huber

- f. Delegation of Authority to Executive Director. Proposed resolution to add authority for the Executive Director to, among other things, approve federal funding applications, execute federal pass-through awards, approve powerplant enforcement settlement agreements, and prescribe the duties, organization, and schedule of meetings of the Independent Consumer Fuels Advisory Committee.

Contact: Drew Bohan

#### **4. Information Item – Department of Water Resources (DWR) to Provide an Update on Strategic Reliability Reserve Investments.**

In accordance with AB 205, DWR is required to provide a quarterly update to the CEC regarding current and planned investments being considered for California’s Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program. DWR will present the status of its efforts in response to the legislation and the activities taken. Contact: Delphine Hou (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

#### **5. Information Item – Update on Data Visualization and Exploration Tools.**

Staff will provide an update on efforts to improve data communication, visualization, and access for the public. This presentation will focus on progress made since the last business meeting update on this topic; new training, staffing, and capabilities; and goals for the upcoming calendar year. Contact: Jason Harville (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

#### **6. Order Instituting Informational Proceeding (OIIP) (Docket 24-OIIP-01).**

Proposed OIIP to authorize the lead commissioner and executive director to gather and assess information focused on justice, access, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JAEDI). The OIIP will involve formal dialogue with the public and establish a record of input from multiple perspectives, including those of local governments, California Native American tribes, community leaders, environmental justice and environmental groups, and the public as part of the CEC’s mission to achieve a clean energy future for all. The CEC staff will use the input received through this OIIP to develop recommendations for further embedding JAEDI principles into its programs, policies, and projects. Contact: James Qaqundah (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

#### **7. CEC and California Workforce Development Board Collaboration.**

Possible adoption of the Partnership Agreement & Business Use Case Proposal for the CEC and California Workforce Development Board to Collaborate on Increasing Economic Opportunities for all Californians. The scope of the agreement includes interagency technical assistance, analysis, and education for workforce development in clean energy, to support high-quality jobs, careers, and workforce education and training, and facilitate greater access to quality employment and workforce development opportunities in the energy sector for disadvantaged and low-income communities in California. Contact: Erik Stokes (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

#### **8. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Berkeley Campus.**

Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-010 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Berkeley Campus, for a \$3,000,000 grant to demonstrate the coupling of remote and embedded sensing technologies with an open-source seismic risk assessment tool, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This demonstration project will take place in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties, and will assess current conditions, predict future reliability of gas pipeline infrastructure, and inform appropriate prioritization of natural hazard and seismic risk mitigation measures. (Gas R&D Funding) Contact: Pooya Khodaparast (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

**9. Hydrogen Blending and Lower Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions in Gas-Fired Generation (Hyblox) – GFO-22-504.**

This solicitation sought to fund the development and demonstration of emission-mitigating technologies and gas-fired power generation technologies that can run efficiently on high blends of hydrogen in the fuel stream while mitigating greenhouse gas and oxides of nitrogen emissions to support meeting California's goals for carbon neutrality and improving public health and safety. This item includes three projects totaling \$7,586,368. (Gas R&D Funding) Contact: Nadia Richards (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. Tour Engine, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-008 with Tour Engine, Inc. for a \$1,201,141 grant to develop and demonstrate the Tour Engine and the Tour ENABLE, a small engine based micro combined heat and power system using the 5-kW Tour Engine hybridized with a 15-kW battery, and adopting staff's determination that this project is exempt from CEQA. The Tour Engine and the Tour ENABLE system in San Diego County will run efficiently on high blends of hydrogen (exceeding 30 percent by volume) up to 100 percent in the fuel stream while mitigating greenhouse gas and oxides of nitrogen emissions.
- b. Noble Thermodynamic Systems, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-009 with Noble Thermodynamic Systems, Inc. for a \$4,242,259 grant to develop and demonstrate the use of hydrogen gas, and using non-reactive argon to substitute nitrogen (in air) in a retrofitted, reciprocating, internal-combustion, piston engine with a nameplate capacity of at least 300 kilowatts in Pomona, and adopting staff's determination that this project is exempt from CEQA. The grant's purpose is to operate the engine on increasing blends of hydrogen compared to fossil gas without generating oxides of nitrogen emissions and capturing greenhouse gases while maintaining benchmark fuel-to-electricity efficiency and generation system performance.
- c. Enchanted Rock, LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-23-011 with Enchanted Rock, LLC for a \$2,142,968 grant to develop and demonstrate a gas-fired power generation technology in San Marcos that can run efficiently on high blends of renewable hydrogen (exceeding 30 percent by volume) in the fuel stream while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and criteria pollutants, and adopting staff's determination that this project is exempt from CEQA.

## **10. Peer-Hydro: Precipitation Enhancement and Environmental Research for Hydropower Generation – GFO-22-306.**

This solicitation sought to fund research to advance strategies for managing California’s hydropower resources for optimal contribution to grid operations and foster development in cost-effective, robust approaches to meet anticipated needs for zero-carbon, fast-ramping resources. Research will provide better information and tools to reduce the environmental effects of hydropower operations. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Joe O’Hagan (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-021 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus, for a \$494,711 grant to fund the application of the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF), and adopting staff’s determination that this project is exempt from CEQA. CEFF and the concept of functional flows are an innovative approach to instream flow determinations and associated water release management that may be applied for hydropower projects to improve downstream ecological conditions.
- b. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Merced Campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-022 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Merced Campus, for a \$500,000 grant to develop a decision support system for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) hydropower relicensing process that balances ecological and energy concerns in the context of climate change, and adopting staff’s determination that this project is exempt from CEQA.

## **11. Building Decarbonization Coalition.**

Proposed resolution approving agreement 500-23-002 with Building Decarbonization Coalition for a \$9,000,000 contract, authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 102 (Chapter 38, Budget Act of 2023), to manage a public-private partnership dedicated to achieving Governor Newsom’s goal of installing 6 million heat pumps by 2030 through a consumer technical assistance, education, and outreach program to assist Californians in leveraging federal Inflation Reduction Act and other incentives and tax credits to decarbonize homes and address heat pump adoption barriers. (General Fund Funding) Contact: Bryan Early (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

## **12. Information Item – AB 590 Briefing**

An overview of Assembly Bill (AB) 590 (Hart, Chapter 535, Statutes of 2023) and the impacts on the CEC’s grant programs. The bill permits state agencies administering grant programs to provide an advance payment of up to 25% of a grant to a nonprofit organization recipient. Contact: Brady Borcharding (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

## **13. Minutes.**

Possible approval of the December 13, 2023 Business Meeting minutes.

## **14. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.**

A lead commissioner on a policy matter and a presiding member on a delegated committee may report to the CEC on relevant matters, and discussion may follow.

**15. Executive Director's Report.**

**16. Public Advisor's Report.**

**17. Chief Counsel's Report.**

Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following pending litigation:

- a. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. vs. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).
- b. State of California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Standards Enforcement Legal Section: In the Matter of the Request for Appeal from Citation Issued Against: California Energy Commission; Anheuser-Busch, LLC, Respondents, State Case Number: 48-76293.
- c. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: License Renewal Application, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (NRC-2023-0192).

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## In-Person Instructions

Visitors of the CNRA building attending the business meeting held in the first-floor auditorium should proceed directly to the auditorium and do not need to sign in at the lobby security desk. Please note that visitors are solely permitted in the auditorium, restrooms, and cafeteria without a visitor badge or staff escort. Masks and social distancing are encouraged but not required.

## Remote Access Instructions

Remote access is available by either internet or call-in options.

**Zoom:** Click the link below to participate and provide public comment via Zoom.

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/93869230237?pwd=Zm96c09ULzdXTjd4eldtUXdnUGErDz09>.

Zoom may also be accessed at <https://zoom.us/join>. To join, enter the **meeting ID 938-6923-0237** and the **password mtg@10am**. To participate by phone, dial (669) 900-6833 or toll free at (888) 475-4499 and enter **meeting ID 938-6923-0237**. For Zoom technical support dial (888) 799-9666 ext. 2 or contact the CEC's Public Advisor for help at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov) and (916) 957-7910.

Public comments are welcomed at the business meeting during announced times. Comments will be limited to two minutes or less per speaker and one speaker per entity depending on the proposed agenda and number of commenters.

**If participating via Zoom's online platform, use the "raise hand" feature to indicate you would like to make a comment.** The Public Advisor will open your line to speak. Please restate and spell your name for the record, indicate any affiliation, and begin your comments.

**If participating by telephone, press \*9 to "raise your hand" and \*6 to mute/unmute.** The Public Advisor will announce the last three digits of the phone number listed and open your line. Make sure to unmute your phone before speaking, restate and spell your name for the record, indicate any affiliation, and begin your comments.

Zoom's closed captioning service will be enabled for the CEC business meetings. Attendees can use the service by clicking on the "live transcript" CC icon and then choosing either "show subtitle" or "view full transcript." The closed captioning service can be stopped by exiting the "live transcript" or selecting the "hide subtitle" icon. If using a phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A full and formal transcript rendered by a professional court reporter will be docketed in the CEC business meeting docket.

**Public Advisor Assistance.** Direct questions about how to participate in the business meeting or requests for interpreting services or other reasonable modifications and accommodations to the Public Advisor at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 957-7910. Requests for interpreting services, reasonable accommodations, and other modifications should be made as soon as possible and at least five days in



advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on the availability of the service or resource needed. Additionally, the Public Advisor may upon the request of public participants who may be absent when a matter of interest to them is being considered, neutrally read their comments into the record during the public comment period. If you are interested in this service, please email concise comments before the start of the business meeting to the Public Advisor. Comments submitted after the business meeting starts or that cannot be read within a two-minute timeframe will be filed in the business meeting docket.

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**Adjournment.** Depending on time and the orderly management of proceedings, the CEC may adjourn, recess, or postpone any noticed hearing or meeting to be continued the next day, another specific date or time, or the next business meeting. Any such adjournment will be noticed at the time the order of adjournment is made. (Government Code sections 11128.5, 11129)