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2022 & 2023 Report of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

February 16, 2024

DRAFT

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Purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

Purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group The purpose of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), pursuant to Section 400(g) of the California Public Utilities Code, is to advise the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed programs related to the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, also known as Senate Bill (SB) 350, in disadvantaged communities. The DACAG will review and advise the CPUC and CEC on policies and programs designed to benefit disadvantaged communities and effectively reach low-income households, small businesses, and hard-to-reach customers (including rural and tribal communities) within disadvantaged communities. Specifically, the DACAG will provide advice on programs related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation electrification, distributed generation and clean energy research and development programs and determine whether those proposed programs will be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

- *Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Charter*

2022-2023 DACAG Members

The DACAG members represent many of the communities that make up California's richly diverse population, including urban and rural, cultural and ethnic, and geographic diversity as well as a diversity of subject matter expertise. The following members served during 2022 and 2023.

- Fred Beihn
- Stephanie Chen
- Jana Ganion (Vice Chair)
- Julia Mary Popolizio Hatton (Secretary)
- Sahara D. Huazano
- Angela Islas
- Elena Krieger
- Roger Lin
- Adriano Martinez
- Roman Partida-Lopez (Chair)
- Andres Ramirez
- Curtis Silvers

Background

In early 2018, the CPUC and the CEC jointly approved members of the DACAG that consists of representatives of disadvantaged communities who provide advice about state programs proposed to achieve clean energy and pollution reduction. The creation of the DACAG fulfills a requirement in SB 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015.

The DACAG's work is guided by its Equity Framework (Appendix A), adopted in 2018 as one of the DACAG's first formal actions.

The framework defines disadvantaged communities for purposes of the DACAG's scope as including:

- Disadvantaged communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen,
- Tribal lands,
- Census tracts with median incomes at or below 80% of area median income or state median income; and
- Households with incomes less than 80% of area median income (AMI)

This definition aligns with the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan, as adopted by the CPUC in 2019, and the CEC's Inclusion Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Initiative, established by the CEC in 2019.

The framework highlights the following priorities regarding climate and clean energy programs to guide the DACAG's work and focus:

- Health and Safety
- Access and Education
- Financial Benefits
- Economic Development
- Consumer Protection Both the CPUC and CEC designate lead commissioners to be the primary points of contact for the DACAG at the Commissioner level.

During the 2022-2023 term, the CEC's lead commissioners were Vice Chair Siva Gunda (2022), Patricia Monahan, and Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo (2023), and the CPUC's lead commissioners were Cliff Rechtshaffen and Darcie Houck (2022), Darcie Houck and Karen Douglas (2023).

2022-2023 Priorities

Every year, the DACAG adopts priority areas that the agencies are working on to help narrow the scope of the group's focus. For 2022, the following were priority areas:

Transportation Electrification

Building Decarbonization & Electrification

Workforce Training & Development

Reliability

Gas Transition

Distributed Energy Resources

Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program

Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)

Affordability

Community Engagement

For 2023, the following were the priority areas with leads and subject matter experts (SMEs):

Affordability

Lead: Román Partida-López, Andres Ramirez

SMEs: Stephanie Chen

Workforce Training & Development •

Lead: Julia Hatton, Curtis Silvers

SMEs: Andres Ramirez, Fred Beihn

Tribal and Community Engagement & Participation •

Lead: Román Partida-López, Curtis Silvers

SMEs: Andres Ramirez, Fred Beihn, Julia Hatton

Building and Industrial Decarbonization, Electrification, and Gas Transition

Lead: Andres Ramirez, Elena Krieger

SMEs: Jana Ganion, Adrian Martinez, Stephanie Chen

Reliability & Flexibility

Lead: Román Partida-López, Jana Ganion

SMEs: Stephanie Chen, Elena Krieger

Resiliency

Lead: Román Partida-López, Elena Krieger

SMEs: N/A

Clean Hydrogen

Lead: Elena Krieger, Jana Ganion

SMEs: Adrian Martinez, Román Partida-López

Long-term Planning (SB 100, SB 350, IEPR)

Lead: Elena Krieger, Jana Ganion *Last updated 7/14/2023 •

SMEs: Roger Lin

Distributed Energy Resources Deployment and Distribution Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities Lead: Elena Krieger, Jana Ganion

SMEs: Adrian Martinez, Stephanie Chen, Roger Lin

Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program

Lead: Stephanie Chen, Román Partida-López

SMEs: N/A

Transportation Electrification

Lead: Román Partida-López, Andres Ramirez

SMEs: Adrian Martinez

Energy-Impacted and -Impacting Services

Lead: Román Partida-López, Curtis Silvers

SMEs: N/A

Lifeline Programs, broadband, etc.

Lead: Curtis Silvers, Andres Ramirez

SMEs: N/A

Summaries of DACAG Actions or Recommendations Related to Priority Areas

Energy Efficiency Business Plans

The DACAG provided feedback that the Energy Efficiency (EE) Business Plans, Related Metrics and Cost Effectiveness Tests Must Include an Adequate Consideration of Non-Energy Benefits

- Energy Division should coordinate with relevant stakeholders and members of the public to continue work on quantifying and incorporating NEBs as a metric for program evaluation as soon as possible; and
- Energy Division, concurrent with its work in determining and quantifying NEBs, also develop and propose for public comment a cost-effectiveness test that is capable of adequately considering NEBs.

The comment also recommended that the Energy Commission should increase the budget cap and increase the budget floor. The DACAG also provided feedback on metrics.

The letter is in Appendix B-1.

Microgrid Incentive Program

The DACG provided feedback to the Investor Owned Utilities on the Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP). In addition, the DACAG laid out contours for its review of future MIP comments to provide feedback.

The letter is in Appendix B-2.

Self Generation Incentive Program

Several entities requested the DACAG to support expanding the existing Advanced Rebate Program (ARP) for the Self Generation Incentive Program's (SGIP) Residential Equity budget. Specifically, the Request pertains to the EPIC project, the Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community Project, 2 which requires a sustainable model to lead an equitable transition to a clean and renewable energy economy. Currently under the existing ARP, GSFA provides revolving loans to approved SGIP Equity and Resiliency Budgets (ERB) residential projects to the homeowner. The GSFA ARP program charges no fees and is at no cost to the homeowner or the installer. The program has so far assisted over 400 families with participation in the SGIP ERB program, and serves as a viable means to overcome the administrative delay in realizing SGIP-already-awarded funds. The DACAG supported this Request and agreed that the gap financing provided by GSFA is a critical step towards scalable solutions.

The letter is at Appendix B-3.

The DACAG also provided feedback on SGIP in 2023. The DACAG provided the following recommendations:

- Move away from first-come, first-served deployment and towards targeted deployment for priority communities;
- Separate low-income budget from medical baseline budget o Fund trusted regional technical assistance supports o Continued analysis of the program related to customer uptake and barriers to participation;
- Allow SGIP projects to fund ancillary expenses, such as service panel upgrades and roof replacement o Allow for financing of upfront costs through 3rd parties, with strong guardrails and vetting to protect consumers; and
- Consider self-attestation of income to remove barrier of burden of proof.

The letter is in Appendix B-4.

Long Term Planning

The DACAG provided comments on the scoping order for the Integrated Energy Policy Report in 2022. The comments requested the process to center equity, create a California planning library and address emerging topics.

The letter is in Appendix B-5.

The DACAG provided comments on the Integrated Energy Policy Report in 2023. The comments focused on the following main points:

- CEC should pursue Energy Justice and adopt the contemplated definition from the U.S. Department of Energy
- CEC should complete its work on non-energy benefits as soon as possible
- CEC should maximize the potential of the Energy Equity Indicators Tool

- Appreciate the inclusion of longitudinal data as a recommendation for building on the Energy Equity Indicators tool, to demonstrate not just where we are, but how things are changing.
- Appreciate the broadening of the definition of accessibility to include grid capacity for DERs in disadvantaged communities to affect full electrification and transportation electrification.

The letter is in Appendix B-6.

Senate Bill 544 (Laird) regarding the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act

The DACAG provided feedback on Senate Bill 544, which dealt with open meeting requirements.

The letter is in Appendix B-7.

Equitable Building Decarbonization

The DACAG provided comments on the CEC’s Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Draft Program Guidelines. The letter provided the following input:

- Support for the Initial Focus Area of the Program
- Requested expanding the focus for Communities vulnerable to extreme heat, high fire risk, or other climate risks, ***in addition to communities vulnerable to high levels of ambient pollution concentrations.***
- Ensuring Contractors to Serve Overburdened Communities in Rural and Tribal Areas
- Strong Support for Tenant Protections

The letter is in Appendix B-8.

EPIC

At the September 2023 DACAG meeting, the DACAG provided feedback via motion to CEC staff to stop investing EPIC funds in combustion technologies in overburdened communities.

City of Oakland – Community Resiliency Center

The DACAG visited Lincoln Square Park in Oakland, California and learned of plans for future Community Resilience Centers in Oakland. The members of the DACAG were impressed by the public/private partnership and collaboration apparent during the site visit and appreciated hearing directly from community members who conveyed the importance of Community Resilience Centers. The DACAG supports Community Resilience Centers as critical interventions to mitigate the effects of pollution, extreme weather, power disruptions and earthquakes through facility improvements that provide cleaner air, heating, cooling, opportunities for respite centers, and backup power. As the DACAG is invested in the well-being of disadvantaged communities, including increasing the benefits of clean energy in those communities, it supported the City of Oakland’s Implementation Grant application for a Community Resilience Center in Oakland’s Chinatown community.

The Letter is in Appendix B-9

Transportation Electrification

In 2022 and 2023 DACAG submitted letters to the CEC on the Clean Transportation Plan Investment Plan Update. The comments focused on advancing equity in expenditures of these funds.

The letters are at Appendix B-10 & B-11.

The DACAG members also supported the CEC and Caltrans application for funding for medium and heavy duty transportation under the federal CFI program.

The letter is at Appendix B-12

Appendices

Appendix A – DACAG EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Appendix B - Letters

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	224742
Document Title:	Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Equity Framework
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Maria Norbeck
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	9/17/2018 4:58:14 PM
Docketed Date:	9/17/2018

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

The impact of climate change on low-income and disadvantaged communities can exacerbate existing inequities but can also be an opportunity to level the playing field through intentional interventions that address climate impacts on these communities directly.

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group would like the State to adopt an Equity Framework to work in conjunction with the Guiding Principles of the Advisory Group set forth in the Charter of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group. The Equity Framework can be applied across all climate related policies, bills, proceedings, requests for proposals, etc. to ensure that equity is front and center when considering any climate investment/intervention in the State.

This Equity Framework is intended to guide the Advisory Group as it moves forward in discussing and commenting on various proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC ensuring that access and adequate resources reach the implementation stage and benefit communities in a meaningful and measurable way. This is the second draft of this document that incorporates all comments made at the August 21 Advisory Group meeting.

DEFINITION OF DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

As defined in the Energy Equity Indicators tool, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DAC AG) will adopt as the definition and advocate for equitable programming to reach all of the following communities (including community residents, workers, and businesses):

- ◆ CalEnviroScreen, as defined by Cal EPA,
- ◆ Tribal Lands,
- ◆ Census tracts with area median household income/state median income, less than 80%, and
- ◆ Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

FRAMEWORK

1. Health & Safety

Energy policies and programs should be observed through the lens of public health to identify impacts and utilize findings to optimize the health and well-being of California's most vulnerable communities, as well as, advance health interventions related to climate change by educating Disadvantaged Communities about disproportionate health impacts related to climate

change and providing ways to value health benefits and impacts, build resiliency, mitigate climate related illnesses, injury and deaths and reduce climate related healthcare costs.

2. Access & Education

Access and Education are key to ensuring that Disadvantaged Communities benefit from clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, and other environmental investments by 1. focusing on special outreach efforts, 2. ensuring that these interventions are applicable and that the communities' interests and needs are represented, and 3. communities receive culturally relevant and sensitive education to prepare for climate resilience. The Advisory Group strives to remove barriers to participation, as identified in the SB 350 Barriers Report and other barriers, through means such as training, funding and support for CBO and educational institutions rooted in disadvantaged communities, ensuring community based businesses are competitive in solicitations, adequate information is disseminated regarding careers and education, and tracking and evaluating progress of such efforts is necessary for these interventions to be successful.

3. Financial Benefits

All investments in clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, and other environmental investments, should benefit all disadvantaged communities directly providing financial benefits, incentives and cost savings while also considering affordability and rate impacts.

4. Economic Development

Climate policies and programs should invest in a clean energy workforce by ensuring California has a trained and ready workforce prepared to improve our infrastructure and built environment as well as bring green technologies to market by: 1. promoting and funding workforce development pathways to high-quality careers in the construction and clean energy industries, including pre-apprenticeship and other training programs, 2. Setting and tracking hiring targets for low-income, disadvantaged, and underrepresented populations (including women, re-entry, etc.) to enter these industries, 3. ensuring that these careers are high-road, with a career-ladder, family-sustaining wages and with benefits, 4. training the next generation of climate leaders and workers for the clean energy economy, and 5. supporting small and diverse business development and contracting.

5. Consumer Protection

Climate related policies and programs should not create incentives for predatory lending or exploitation of communities for financial gain. Programs should have adequate consumer protection measures, disclosures, and accountability measures to ensure that financially vulnerable customers are not taken advantage of or otherwise compromised.

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Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/17/2022 2:48:50 PM
Docketed Date:	8/17/2022

August 19, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102

Re: Comment on Energy Efficiency Business Plan Application Equity Segment

To the CPUC Energy Division,

The SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Advisory Group (DACAG) provides the following comment on the Equity Segment of the Energy Efficiency Business Plan. Energy Division presented a summary of the Plan to the DACAG at our July 15, 2022 meeting. We request that Energy Division incorporate the following recommendations.

I. The Energy Efficiency Business Plans, Related Metrics and Cost-Effectiveness Tests Must Include an Adequate Consideration of Non-Energy Benefits

Outdated cost-effectiveness tests pose a significant barrier to the deployment of clean energy resources in Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) communities. “Non-energy benefits are often not considered in cost-effectiveness tests, which devalues some of the most important factors that motivate investment in clean energy upgrades, such as family health and safety, comfort, and tenant retention.”¹

Pursuant to SB 350, one of the “Principle Recommendations” from the Energy Commission in the Low-Income Barriers Study (2016) is:

Establish common definitions of non-energy benefits, develop standards to measure them, and attempt to determine consistent values for use in *all energy programs*.²

Furthermore, Goal 2 of the CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan seeks to “increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.”³ Consequently, the CPUC must incorporate non-energy benefits (NEBs) in two regards, including in the Energy Efficiency Business Plans: first, as a determining factor in appropriate cost-effectiveness tests; and second, as a metric to

¹ SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A - Commission Final Report at 3.

² *Id.* at 5 (emphasis added).

³ ESJ Action Plan Ver. 2.0 (April 7, 2022) at 23, available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>.

determine whether energy programs are meeting ESJ Action Plan direction and other policies, specifically here, the equity segment.

As discussed at the July 15, 2022 DACAG meeting, it is important to incorporate an adequate consideration of NEBs as soon as possible. The ESJ Action Plan describes that “there are 65 action items from Energy Division in the current [Version 1.0] ESJ Action Plan.”⁴ One of those action items relates to NEBs in energy efficiency programs. Specifically:

CPUC Action 9.8: Quantify non-energy and local economic benefits of the environmental efficiency Local Government Partnerships in hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities.⁵

Under “status,” the ESJ Action Plan Version 1.0 states that:

D.18-05-041 required the IOUs file a motion proposing how to quantify these benefits. The motion was filed on August 31, 2018 [with a] Proposed Decision expected by early 2020.⁶

This status update refers to the mandate in D.18-05-041 for IOUs and Local Government Partnership partners to quantify “co-benefits and economic development benefits of programs in disadvantaged communities and/or for hard-to-reach customers.”⁷ On August 31, 2018, the IOUs filed this joint motion.⁸ While the joint motion includes a discussion of NEBs, it does so only in an attachment with several factors to be determined, including data points and monitoring frequencies.⁹ On August 9, 2019, the CPUC ruled on this motion, deferring consideration of NEBs to a consultant process.¹⁰ The consultant process resulted in Evergreen Economics’ final report, Local Government Partnership Quantification of Co-Benefits and Local Economic Benefits in Hard-to-Reach and Disadvantaged Communities (2021).¹¹ Notably, however, this report does not include NEBs important to DAC residents, including affordability and health.¹² In addition, “[d]ata on co-benefits are not currently tracked by all partnerships, nor is data collection consistent across these partnerships.”¹³ While this report represents a good start, there is still much work to be done to meet the ESJ Action Plan and Energy Commission

⁴ *Id.* at 62.

⁵ ESJ Action Plan Ver. 1.0 (February 21, 2019) at 44, available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/environmental-and-social-justice.pdf>

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ D.18-05-041 at 189.

⁸ A.17-01-013 (and related matters) Joint Motion for Approval of Standard Contract For Local Government Partnerships (August 31, 2018) available at <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M231/K128/231128543.PDF>

⁹ *Id.* at Attachment B.

¹⁰ D.19-08-006.

¹¹ Local Government Partnership Quantification of Co-Benefits and Local Economic Benefits in Hard-to-Reach and Disadvantaged Communities (May 2021) https://www.calmac.org/publications/LGP_Co-Benefits_Final_Report_051421.pdf

¹² *Id.* at 3.

¹³ *Id.* at 4.

recommendations. It is unclear how the CPUC intends to further develop the data and metrics necessary to adequately consider NEBs.

Given Goal 2 of the current ESJ Action Plan, this inadequate consideration is particularly problematic. It is not possible to consider the benefits to DACs if the CPUC's programs are simply not designed to consider several of those benefits. This deficiency is troubling for energy efficiency specifically, as lack of consideration of NEBs omits consideration of the many structural, market and policy barriers to energy efficiency programs. For instance, deployment of energy efficiency in ESJ communities may often require additional retrofits and treatments due to housing stock quality, resulting in higher comparative costs that current cost-effectiveness tests cannot recognize or justify. The DACAG therefore requests that Energy Division coordinate with relevant stakeholders and members of the public to continue work on quantifying and incorporating NEBs as a metric for program evaluation as soon as possible.

This work can begin immediately, with prerequisite data collection and reporting even if the CPUC has not yet finalized quantifying NEBs. As a start, the CPUC can begin to collect data to inform the proposed metrics detailed below. For example, although the CPUC has not yet adopted a methodology to quantify criteria pollutant reductions in monetary terms, the CPUC can at least begin collecting data to determine how to evaluate the benefits of reduced local pollution.

In addition, the CPUC should revise and implement a cost-effectiveness test that can adequately consider NEBs. Currently, with inadequate cost-effectiveness tests, it makes sense to exclude resource acquisition from cost-effectiveness requirements under the equity segment. The Total Resource Cost test is currently not appropriate to adequately compare the costs and benefits of energy efficiency programs in DACs. Although the test includes participant costs, it fails to consider participant benefits, importantly including NEBs. As detailed above, this skews cost-effectiveness determinations to the detriment of DAC residents and potential participants. Determining cost-effectiveness of resource acquisition in the equity segment should evolve as the CPUC adequately determines NEBs. Total system benefits could certainly include NEB factors, such as criteria pollutants. The DACAG therefore requests that Energy Division, concurrent with its work in determining and quantifying NEBs, also develop and propose for public comment a cost-effectiveness test that is capable of adequately considering NEBs.

II. The Commission Should Increase the Equity Segment Budget Cap and Impose a Budget Floor

Upfront investment and affordability present significant barriers to clean energy resources, including energy efficiency. The SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study identifies that:

[Additional IOU energy programs targeting specific sectors of the low-income community and] funding from additional sources can be extremely important . . . to maximize the scope of energy efficiency . . . projects in housing for low-income persons and disadvantaged communities.¹⁴

The DACAG requests that the CPUC remove the budget cap for market support and equity. Alternatively, the CPUC should at least raise the cap. A 30% cap is too low given the number of DAC households alone in the state. As we add in underserved and hard-to-reach

¹⁴ SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A - Commission Final Report at 28.

customers as well, the total population eligible for the equity segment expands, and likely exceeds 30%. In any event, budget distribution should reflect historic underinvestment, rather than just being proportional to population. Furthermore, because the previously-discussed barriers may make individual interventions more expensive per-capita and per-kWh, a larger fraction of the budget may need to be allocated to these communities to ensure equivalent levels of efficiency savings.

Related, the CPUC should also impose a budget floor as a percentage of overall budget. Comparing IOU and non-IOU Project Administrator equity budgets, while the equity budget amounts are relatively similar, the percentage of budget for the IOUs is far less (5-14%) compared to the CCAs (25-26%, but subject to the 30% cap) and RENs (63-76%). SDGE, for instance, does not even seem to budget for residential energy efficiency in the equity segment for 2022-2023, or, the budget is so small that it is practically invisible on the chart.¹⁵ As recommended in the Low-Income Barriers Study, the IOUs should target a greater percentage of their budget to the equity segment.

III. The Commission Should Use the Following Metrics for the Equity Segment

In order to track progress towards achieving equity, the program administrators (PAs) submitted a slate of candidate metrics and indicators. The majority of PAs proposed they would collect data on these metrics and indicators for two years before setting targets. However, we suggest that instead the PAs identify a meaningful long-term goal and then ensure that their annual targets will achieve that goal. More specifically, we know that in order to achieve its climate targets, California must decarbonize all of its buildings by 2045.¹⁶ However, populations such as renters, low-income households, and other historically underserved communities often face the highest barriers to adopting clean and efficient technologies,¹⁷ even though they also often have the highest energy cost burdens and could most benefit from efficiency measures. To alleviate energy cost burdens, it makes sense to prioritize households in historically underserved communities first, and therefore set a pre-2045 target — e.g., to expand efficiency to *all* of these populations by 2035.

The business plan metrics and targets should therefore be structured in a way that such a goal can be easily achieved and progress measured. We therefore strongly recommend that the metrics include both the *total* number of customers served as currently proposed — such as single family or multifamily homes — as well as the *percentage of eligible customers served*. Assuming, for example, that the business plans officially start in 2024, more than 8 percent of hard-to-reach, undeserved, and ESJ/DAC customers would need to be reached every year to ensure all of these customers receive efficiency upgrades by the end of 2035. While the number of buildings reached per year may not be constant, the targets should be set in such a way that they clearly demonstrate how each PA is on a pathway to achieve such a goal, and the metrics designed to clearly evaluate progress towards this end goal.

In order to identify the customers that should be targeted for equity-focused efficiency investments, the DACAG supports the inclusion of hard-to-reach and ESJ communities with disadvantaged communities. To add more precision to such definitions, we suggest that these

¹⁵ Energy Division July 15, 2022 Presentation to DACAG on EE Business Plan Equity Segment, Slide 10.

¹⁶ Building Decarbonization Coalition, A Roadmap to Decarbonize Buildings (2019) *available at* https://gridworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BDC_Roadmap_final_online.pdf.

¹⁷ See SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A - Commission Final Report

should include all communities on Tribal lands, all customers currently qualifying for bill assistance programs such as CARE, and customers facing energy cost burdens over six percent per year or facing affordability challenges such as those identified through the California Public Utilities Commission's Affordability Ratio¹⁸ or similar metrics. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but is provided to suggest a few specific populations for inclusion. Therefore, in defining "underserved populations," the DACAG recommends that the Commission use Option 2 "plus" where PAs begin with the ESJ Communities definition, and these additions detailed above, and also propose additional categories of underserved customers, along with an accompanying rationale supporting the addition.

In addition to the percentage of target customers reached every year, we suggest a few other additions to the metrics and indicators reported by PAs. These metrics can help provide data to calculate NEBs in future iterations. Our suggested metrics and indicators are as follows:

- The percentage of eligible customers reached for each customer class (in addition to total number of customers reached).
- The average kWh, kW, and therm savings per customer, by customer class (in addition to the total savings for the program).
- The average annual bill savings for participating customers, both first year and annually.
- The average energy cost burdens, and reduction in energy cost burdens, for residential customers.
- The number and percentage of CARE or other bill-assistance customers (and eligible customers) who receive efficiency upgrades, as well as the energy savings and bill savings for these customers. Specifically, the data should enable us to determine whether energy cost burdens have fallen for these customers, by how much, and the bill-assistance savings that have been achieved through energy efficiency investments.
- Appropriate metrics to track workforce development, job quality and job placement, as well as access to training and employment for disadvantaged populations.
- The estimated reduction of criteria air pollutant (tons), both in-home and from the electric grid, in addition to GHG reductions.
- Average disconnection and arrears rates for homes pre- and post-treatment.
- An evaluation of how many/much of the indicators, including other NEBs, programs meet. NEBs should be an indicator for all Energy Efficiency Programs.

While we suggest setting an overarching target that enables efficiency measures to reach all eligible buildings by roughly 2035, the additional metrics and indicators we suggest above can be used to help refine some of these targets, such as to provide specific goals regarding reductions in energy cost burdens or in indoor air pollutant emissions. Thus, after two years of reporting, it would be valuable to review these indicators and metrics and identify additional goals.

We also agree with the parties who suggest that gas appliances investments should be excluded from the business plans. We are concerned that investments in gas appliances would lock in stranded assets, and such investments should be directed towards electrification instead.

IV. Conclusion

¹⁸ R.18-07-006, CPUC Affordability Staff Proposal (2021) available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/affordability-proceeding/r1807006--staff-proposal-on-affordability-metrics-implementation.pdf>.

In summary, we believe the Energy Efficiency Business Plans would be strengthened by the inclusion of non-energy benefits and the expansion of the metrics and indicators used to evaluate Plan success. We also believe the impacts of these plans on undeserved, hard-to-reach, and ESJ communities could be greatly expanded by creating an equity budget floor, raising or eliminating the budget cap, and ensuring each PA's targets set it on a pathway to ensure energy efficiency programs reach all eligible customers on a meaningful timeline.

We thank the Energy Division for its presentation to the DACAG and consideration of our comments and welcome ongoing discussion on the Energy Efficiency Business Plans.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	246675
Document Title:	tem 7 DACAG Microgrid Incentive Program Comment
Description:	N/A
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/19/2022 2:58:52 PM
Docketed Date:	10/19/2022

October 21, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102

Re: Comment on Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Future Involvement in the Microgrid Incentive Program (R.19-09-009)

To the CPUC Energy Division,

The SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities (“DAC”) Advisory Group (“DACAG”) provides the following comment regarding the Microgrid Incentive Program (“MIP”) in the CPUC’s Rulemaking 19-09-009. At our September 2022 meeting, the Joint IOUs presented background on the MIP, requesting that the DACAG provide input on its desired degree of involvement for future implementation of the program. Members of the Microgrid Equity Coalition (the California Environmental Justice Alliance, the Sierra Club, the Climate Center, Vote Solar and the Microgrid Resources Coalition, collectively “MEC”) provided public comment.

We provide the following comments concurring with recommendations from the MEC and request that Commissioner Shiroma and Administrative Law Judge Rizzo include the following recommendations in the implementation of the MIP.

I. The CPUC Should Issue a Proposed Decision on MIP Implementation As Soon As Possible.

As a preliminary matter, the DACAG underscores the importance of swift implementation of the MIP. Although the 2022 fire season is well underway, and DAC and other Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) communities continue to face associated outages and their attendant harms, the MIP has stalled since its inception over a year and a half ago. The Joint IOUs’ proposal to not put any projects in the ground until potentially 2025 misses several opportunities to mitigate significant harms to DAC and other ESJ communities. The DACAG therefore requests that the Commission issue a proposed decision on MIP implementation as soon as possible.

II. The DACAG Should Review and Provide Actionable Feedback on MIP Applications.

Consistent with the duties detailed in the Charter of the DACAG,¹ the DACAG’s Equity Framework,² and the Goals of the CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan, the

¹ DACAG Charter, available at https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/dacag-charter-updated-march-2020.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=9237213411E88653040D370D055DC2C5. (“Increase access to and the benefits from clean energy resources in DACs.”)

² DACAG Equity Framework, available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/dacag-equity->

DACAG recommends that the CPUC incorporate the MEC's recommendations for DACAG oversight over MIP project selection, as detailed in the MEC's public comments at the DACAG September 2022 meeting. This oversight role is critical to ensure that implementation of the MIP adequately centers DAC and other ESJ communities, and overall, for the successful creation of DAC and ESJ community microgrids.

The DACAG proposes that the Joint IOUs engage in two future meetings with the DACAG to review MIP applications, and share a scored list of projects, as outlined below:

First DACAG Meeting: (First Joint IOU presentation). Approximately two to four weeks before the IOUs select projects, the IOUs provide a presentation at a DACAG meeting on the MIP's purpose and processes. This presentation should include a description of how projects will be scored and a timeline for when DACAG members will see a list describing projects and their scores. DACAG members can ask questions and share feedback at this meeting.

Project Scores: (IOUs share a scored list of projects with the DACAG). Two to four weeks after the First Joint IOU Presentation, the IOUs provide the DACAG with a list of MIP project applications, describing the proposed projects, their beneficiaries, high-level characteristics, and moderately detailed justifications of each score. We agree with the MEC's suggestion that the IOUs present the DACAG with a spreadsheet listing each project and its score, accompanied by a document describing each project and how it was scored, of no more than one page per project.

Second DACAG meeting: (Second Joint IOU Presentation). The Joint IOUs present applications proposed for awards at the next DACAG meeting. At this meeting, DACAG members may raise questions and provide feedback on the final project selection. The DACAG will also have the opportunity to raise questions and object to certain awards, if necessary. Project selection must be fair and consistent with MIP goals and include an adequate focus on DACs. If the DACAG identify any inconsistencies or inadequate focus on DACs, the DACAG may request that the IOUs correct those deficiencies and reconsider the ranking of projects. In the event that there is sustained disagreement between the DACAG and IOUs, the DACAG can request that Energy Division and/or the Assigned Commissioner's Office resolve the issue.

III. Conclusion

The DACAG thanks the Energy Division and Joint IOUs for their time in implementing the MIP, and respectfully requests that the CPUC include the above recommendations for expeditious implementation of the MIP.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

[framework.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=130F6FD0AEA89095CD0EAC455D0C60EE](#). ("Prioritize health and safety of DACs and ensure the adequate deployment of clean energy resources in DACs.")

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	246719
Document Title:	item 8 DACAG Residential SGIP Comment 102122 V2
Description:	***** THIS DOCUMENT REPLACES TN 246674 *****
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/21/2022 10:53:11 AM
Docketed Date:	10/21/2022

October 21, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento CA 95814

CC:

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102

VIA EMAIL

Re: Comment on Request for Residential SGIP Equity Advanced Rebate Program

To the California Energy Commission,

The SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Advisory Group (DACAG) provides the following comment on the Request for Residential SGIP Equity Advanced Rebate Program (Request) from The Energy Coalition, Grid Alternatives, and Swell Energy, with support from the Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA). The Request was made in August 2022 as a public comment to the DACAG,¹ and again at our September meeting during our EPIC Priority Areas discussion.

The Request seeks to expand the existing Advanced Rebate Program (ARP) for the Self Generation Incentive Program's (SGIP) Residential Equity budget. Specifically, the Request pertains to the EPIC project, the Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community Project,² which requires a sustainable model to lead an equitable transition to a clean and renewable energy economy.

Currently under the existing ARP, GSFA provides revolving loans to approved SGIP Equity and Resiliency Budgets (ERB) residential projects to the homeowner. The GSFA ARP program charges no fees and is at no cost to the homeowner or the installer. The program has so far assisted over 400 families with participation in the SGIP ERB program, and serves as a viable means to overcome the administrative delay in realizing SGIP-already-awarded funds.

The DACAG supports this Request and agrees that the gap financing provided by GSFA is a critical step towards scalable solutions. The Request presents an opportunity to accelerate SGIP payments and ensure that already approved battery storage projects realize the needed private capital for deployment. The DACAG recommends that the CEC expand the ARP program to include all participants in the Bassett Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community Project. Similarly, the DACAG recommends that the CPUC and CEC should

¹ [The Energy Coalition Comments - Request for Residential SGIP Equity Advanced Rebate Program](#) (August 25, 2022)

² CEC Contract #EPC-19-006

consider expanding the ARP program for other projects eligible for the SGIP Residential Equity Budget and other DAC and low-income programs that rely on the SGIP, including the San Joaquin Valley Pilot Projects Budget.

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	247892
Document Title:	DACAG Letter to Clifford Rechtschaffen at the CPUC
Description:	***** THIS DOCUMENT REPLACES TN 247888 *****
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	12/2/2022 1:17:21 PM
Docketed Date:	12/2/2022

Dec 2, 2022

Clifford Rechtschaffen, Assigned Commissioner
California Public Utilities Commission
Via Email to:

Re: Comments on Rulemaking 20-05-012 Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (ACR) on Improving Self Generation Incentive Program Equity Outcomes and Assembly Bill 209 Implementation
<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M497/K964/497964271.PDF>

Dear Commissioner Rechtschaffen, and all others this may concern,

The California Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) provides these brief comments on Rulemaking 20-05-012 Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (ACR) on Improving Self Generation Incentive Program Equity Outcomes and Assembly Bill 209 Implementation.

In the 11/18/2022 DACAG public meeting, this ACR was discussed, and we reference that recorded discussion with these comments.

One overall goal of the SGIP program and associated equity budget is the higher uptake and deployment of SGIP investments in disadvantaged communities (DACs) for the affordability, resilience, and reliability benefits the incentivized energy and storage systems are proven to provide. The current uptake by low-income communities and residences is insufficient, and the program's structure to date has not achieved sufficient participation, leaving a large portion of the equity budget unspent.

The DACAG's recommendations to increase participation by DACs includes the following:

- Govern the deployment of the funding to evolve away from first-come first-serve structure to a controlled deployment with low-income and equity resiliency investment reserves remaining available for a much longer term. This allows for appropriate time for under-resourced DACs to do the technical work to participate in the program. We also recommend separating the low-income budget from the medical baseline budget.
- Fund trusted regional technical assistance supports. Trusted, non-profit intermediaries familiar with SGIP and its details can help socialize the program among DACs. This is a method proven to work for complicated programs. Please see an example here: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/solar-in-disadvantaged-communities/dac-sash-2022-meo-plan_march-2022.pdf and the SB 350 Barriers Study: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/rules-and->

[regulations/energy-suppliers-reporting/clean-energy-and-pollution-reduction-act-sb-350/sb.](#)

- Analysis is needed to continue social science on barriers to uptake by low-income constituents. We recommend analyzing medical baseline SGIP project locales by zip code to assess whether they are in DACs or low-income census tracts and therefore to better understand if certain DAC or low-income customers are indeed accessing SGIP funds, but qualifying through their medical baseline eligibility due to lower barriers for participation. We also suggest surveying customers of other related targeted programs, such as DAC-SASH, to help identify what these customers see as barriers or incentives to participation in SGIP.
- Electrical service upgrades are a larger part of implementation than anticipated. Electric panel upgrades, service size increases (e.g., 100 to 200 amps) are often immediately necessary and the project will not go forward without them. Also, low-income DAC housing stock is often degraded in other ways (roof replacement for solar panel hosting, electrical service upgrades). Allowing for SGIP projects to include these costs is a strong recommendation.
- Third-party project participation, e.g., upfront financing, need strong guidelines to avoid malfeasance and exploitation of DACs. There is already confusion in the residential solar and storage spaces where homeowners are besieged by solar energy offers, with no way to assess the viability, risks, and/or benefits. In addition to strong guidelines, this recommendation also includes reiteration of support for technical assistance described above. It may be useful to support vetted organizations that can help provide bridge financing between applications for SGIP and actual receipt of the incentive.
- Where providing proof of income and/or residing in deed-restricted housing are necessary to qualify for participation, these conditions often result in unnecessary barriers to participation. Consider enabling self-attestation of income to reduce these barriers, which can be verified through random audits of a small subset of customers, or at a minimum enable customers who qualify for CARE or FERA to participate without additional paperwork.

Respectfully,

The California Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	242426
Document Title:	DACAG Comments on Draft Scoping Order for 2022 IEPR Update
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	DACAG
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
Submission Date:	3/23/2022 8:42:20 AM
Docketed Date:	3/23/2022

*Comment Received From: DACAG
Submitted On: 3/23/2022
Docket Number: 16-OIR-06*

on Draft Scoping Order for 2022 IEPR Update

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

March 22, 2022

Siva Gunda
Vice Chairperson
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Via email to: docket@energy.ca.gov

Re: Docket Number 22–IEPR–01, 2022 Scoping Order; Comments on “Notice of Request for Public Comments on Draft Scoping Order for 2022 IEPR Update”

Dear Vice Chair Gunda and All This May Concern,

On behalf of the SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (“DACAG”)¹ we are pleased to provide these comments pursuant to Docket Number 22-IEPR-01, the 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, and specifically the 3/1/2022 document “Notice of Request for Public Comments on Draft Scoping Order for 2022 IEPR Update.”

We commend the California Energy Commission’s leadership to conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices, which are used to develop recommendations for energy policies that conserve state resources, protect the environment, provide reliable energy, enhance the state’s economy, and protect public health and safety, and document these directions in the biennial Integrated Energy Policy Report (“IEPR”), and its alternate year updates.

General Comments

We agree with prior calls for the IEPR to be a “summary document,” with links and references to other materials as needed. To provide comprehensive data and analysis on record that can be referenced to avoid duplicative work, we recommend the CEC incorporate its order instituting informational proceedings (OIPs) and order instituting rulemakings (OIRs) in areas such as decarbonizing the gas system and distributed energy resources which will enable deep analyses that extend beyond an annual reporting period.

¹ <https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/campaigns/equity-and-diversity/disadvantaged-communities-advisory-group>

To the list of California’s enacted policies aimed at climate resilient development referenced in the Scoping document, we suggest adding EO B-30-15² which includes deeply insightful language to center climate change and equity in these kinds of strategic plans, as stated in the sections below, and aligns with the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) definition of “climate resilient development” where all transitions, including clean energy transitions, pair climate mitigations (emission reductions) with adaptations:

“6. State agencies shall take climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions, and employ full life-cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare infrastructure investments and alternatives.

7. State agencies’ planning and investment shall be guided by the following principles

- Priority should be given to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Where possible, flexible and adaptive approaches should be taken to prepare for uncertain climate impacts;
- Actions should protect the state’s most vulnerable populations; and
- Natural infrastructure solutions should be prioritized.”

1. Establishing a Framework to Center Equity and Environmental Justice Throughout CEC Efforts

Centering well-defined equity metrics and outcomes is crucial to bend the arc of justice by accelerating toward “climate resilient development.”³ We support a mechanism to obtain robust input to better integrate equity, environmental, and climate justice goals.

- Highly recommend conducting a literature review of existing California, Tribal, and international energy and related (e.g., climate) equity metrics, indicators and outcomes, including but not limited to: <https://resilientca.org/> and <https://resilientca.org/topics/climate-equity/>.
- Highly recommend placing a timeline on this work to ensure the process reaches conclusion and to prevent the process from delaying project deployments.
- Suggest incorporating the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate justice principles of distributive justice, procedural justice, and recognition⁴ interwoven with state, tribal, and regional equity and justice principles.

² <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2015/04/29/news18938/index.html>

³ https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf, page 6: “This report labels the process of implementing mitigation and adaptation together in support of sustainable development for all as climate resilient development.”

⁴ Ibid, page 5: “The term climate justice, while used in different ways in different contexts by different communities, generally includes three principles: distributive justice which refers to the allocation of burdens and benefits among individuals, nations and generations; procedural justice which refers to who decides and participates in decision-making; and recognition which entails basic respect and robust engagement with and fair consideration of diverse cultures and perspectives.”

- Suggest incorporating the **DACAG “Equity Framework,”** particularly the definition of Disadvantaged Communities, to include:
 - CalEnviroScreen, as defined [latest version] by Cal EPA,
 - Tribal Lands,
 - Census tracts with area median household income/state median income, less than 80%, and
 - Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Suggest **incorporating the DACAG-recommended “Energy Equity Indicators”** (please see: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/files/uploadedfiles/cpucwebsite/content/utilitiesindustries/energy/energyprograms/infrastructure/dc/item-5-energy-equity-indicators-dacag-recommended-changes.pdf>).
- Suggest comparing existing equity metrics with proposed metrics and describing use cases in which each may be applied, specifically identifying the gaps which the proposed metrics aim to fill.
- Suggest centering no-combustion strategies to achieve real pollution reductions that improve equitable health outcomes. Deep reductions in GHG emissions can improve air quality through the simultaneous reduction in emissions of health-damaging air pollutants such as particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). California’s low-carbon energy future would reduce air pollution mortality by ~55% by mid-century. These health benefits accrue at the local level, bringing immediate air quality benefits to vulnerable populations. In [California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment Statewide Summary Report](#) please see box on p. 71 dedicated to “Public Health Benefits of Deep GHG Emissions Reductions in California.” This box provides more detail as to the Zapata et al. (2018) study from which the estimate of a 55% reduction in mortality from meeting 2050 goals is drawn and other studies that contextualize the importance of air quality issues in California and related implications of deep reductions in GHG emissions. “The public health savings of deep GHG emission reductions in California in isolation or in combination with global action are comparable to the potential cost of GHG reductions (Roland-Holst et al., 2018; Zapata et al., 2018). This holds even without consideration of other benefits of deep GHG reductions, such as lower overall climate risks from higher temperatures and sea-level rise.” Also please see p. 84 of the statewide report on “Improved Accounting of Co-Benefits”: “California has placed a priority on implementing adaptation solutions that also support reducing GHG emissions. Several studies show that climate actions can result in a range of additional benefits (e.g., Zapata et al., 2018 for public health). Developing more robust tools and techniques to quantify and account for the multiple benefits of climate actions can be helpful to address a range of future concerns,

including climate justice issues. A “multiple-benefit” approach can provide opportunities for funding of climate-related projects and actions from multiple sources. This can also apply to marine and coastal ecosystems, as additional research is needed to understand where carbon storage and ocean acidification amelioration potential may be greatest within the variety of physical environments along California’s coast. A guide to some methods for accounting for co-benefits has been assembled by the California Air Resources Board.”

- Equity in rural / remote / Tribal areas of California depends on bridging the “deployment divide,” increasing access to and familiarity with equipment and strategies to electrify, decarbonize, and become more resilient. Highly recommend equity metrics include:
 - A survey of the distribution channels and availability of preferred electrified building systems and equipment, including residential and commercial scale electric heat pump-based HVAC systems, residential-scale battery storage systems including multiple technologies, e.g., lithium iron phosphate and other battery types, electric cooking systems, and electric hot water heating systems.
 - A survey of contractor, installer, warranty and repair technician ecosystems related to preferred electrified building systems and equipment.
 - Access to enabling infrastructure, e.g. broadband.
- Suggest institutionalizing regional biennial climate science symposium events, where the regions together cover the entire state. Equity rests in part on accurate, updated data. Past regional climate science learning sessions have been effective, particularly in rural / remote / Tribal areas where capacity to access the latest information is often severely limited. Please see model here:
https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/NorthCoastClimateScienceSymposium_Agenda_v2.pdf
- Support the statewide ambition of the IEPR and for initial four (4) regions approach, and at the same time incorporate an engagement strategy with connectivity to other regions, or at least a strategy to interweave regions.
- Highly recommend detailed analysis and inclusion of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) scoping plan (AB 197) with particular focus on 1) emphasis on prioritizing direct emission and pollution reductions at the source, which requires coordination between CARB and the CEC and 2) considering social costs and non-energy and other harms (e.g., human health impacts, healthcare costs, negative health trends and outcomes).

2. Creating a California Planning Library

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) lack sufficient capacity in climate and energy science and data. We stress the importance of the CEC’s role in collecting and analyzing data and serving as the state’s data repository as a pillar of planning and decision-making heavily relied upon by DACs who cannot afford to support this kind of research and data collection. We support the

activities of the CEC within the IEPR 2022 Update to consolidate, integrate, and enhance analytical products into a California Planning Library, and urge that these data and resources be shared in an easily searchable and accessible format, with periodic regional symposia (see below) to transfer knowledge on data and tools, enabling a broad range of stakeholders with varied backgrounds to access and download needed information.

- Highly recommend including GHG and carbon lifecycle analyses (CLA) decision-making data and tools, identifying CLA tools needed for regional project and investment design and decision-making.
- Support including the analytical products contemplated in the draft Scope:
 - Energy demand forecasts and scenarios, including:
 - Updated end-user electricity, gas, and transportation fuel demand forecasts to 2035.
 - Energy demand scenarios to assess long-term (to 2050) decarbonization policy impacts on electricity and gas demand.
 - Reliability assessments.
 - Land-use screening assessments.
- Suggest the following additional analytical resources:
 - For greater affordability, continuity of service, and more equitable direct accessibility to taxpayer-funded and government-collected solar and weather data, develop public products that provide data for distributed energy resource control systems for greater optimization and coordination with the distribution and transmission grids.
 - Easy access to available capacity on the transmission and distribution grids for clean energy and storage projects, such as Pacific Gas and Electric’s PV RAM and other tools. Please see: https://www.pge.com/en_US/for-our-business-partners/distribution-resource-planning/distribution-resource-planning-data-portal.page?ctx=large-business; crucially, planners need access that enables a ‘first pass feasibility’ estimation and which is not behind a cumbersome login portal.
 - Add Gas and Affordability OIRs, OIIPs and other proceedings to the IEPR as links and references.
- Suggest deep coordination with climate analytical products, including but not limited to: <https://cal-adapt.org/>, <https://climateassessment.ca.gov/>, <https://acp.copernicus.org/articles/18/4817/2018/>

3. Addressing Emerging Topics

- *Role for hydrogen in California’s clean energy future.*

While the DACAG agrees with the theoretical benefits of hydrogen as a potentially favorable climate resilient source of energy, we strongly recommend the following:

- Ensure full GHG lifecycle accounting is factored into hydrogen strategies, project by project and site by site. Hydrogen refined from fossil sources should not be invested in or allowed from a regulatory framework. Hydrogen production which has a high parasitic electrical load could negate its climate benefits, and if a project fails to be a neutral or net sequestering energy source it should not be invested in.
 - Assess the potential health-damaging air and water pollutant emissions associated with hydrogen production manufacturing and use, such as NO_x emissions in the case of proposed hydrogen combustion.
 - Consider additional factors such as safety of hydrogen storage and transport and lifecycle materials inputs and end-of-life considerations for hydrogen pathways, including but not limited to materials used in fuel cells.
 - Ensure the full marketability of hydrogen is considered prior to investment, i.e., end uses and costs. Despite almost two decades of development (e.g., the hydrogen highway), production and use of hydrogen has initially proven expensive compared to alternatives (e.g., batteries) in all but larger industrial and commercial settings (e.g., shipping, large trucking applications).
- *Evolving regional energy markets*
 - Offshore wind energy has the potential to shift ~25% of California's electrical generation, and be a catalyst for new energy resilience in communities along the coast that due to sea level rise are relocating or reorganizing their electric power plants and transmission and distribution infrastructure. This resource can also reduce reliance on the transmission lines associated with recent fires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs across California.
 - Highly recommend research and analysis to provide coastal communities with regional data to guide electrical power system transitions including moving electrical infrastructure out of sea level rise zones, and how distributed storage may be combined with additional regional generation via offshore wind and other clean resources.
 - In rural / remote areas, there are often electric sub-station interconnection points (e.g., old mill sites, industrial sites) that are not in use or under-utilized but which could be repurposed for battery storage arrays with or without distributed clean generation. Distributed battery storage arrays in rural areas could serve as resource adequacy and/or basis for front-of-the-meter microgrids that energize at a feeder / substation level.

- Highly recommend regional research to list feasible locations (public and private) where distributed battery storage arrays could be located, and include any maximum power nameplate limits based on feeder capacities.
- Recommend regional research to better understand costs of sectionalization / segmentation devices, controls, switchgear, substation upgrades to create more island-able electrical grid segments that can be kept energized in Public Safety Power Shutoff events, or to provide greater reliability in nuisance or other outage events.
 - Research should include combination with measures to reduce risk from overhead lines (e.g., undergrounding vegetation management, and others)
- Recommend adding **industrial electrification** as an emerging topic because of its unique electrification scope and associated clean energy strategies.
- Recommend adding **fuel switching** as an emerging topic due to the ongoing innovation in this sector, and the need to focus on equitable investment, access, policy, and deployment strategies for disadvantaged communities.

We thank the California Energy Commission for its crucial work in the IEPR. We look forward to consistent engagement through subcommittee and presentations at DACAG meetings and discussing how these recommendations are incorporated into the IEPR 2022 Update. Please contact the DACAG for any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

The California Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	248461
Document Title:	Item 5 - DACAG 2022 IEPR Equity Comment 012023 DRAFT
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	1/20/2023 11:32:08 AM
Docketed Date:	1/20/2023

January 20, 2023

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento CA 95814

CC:

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102

VIA EMAIL

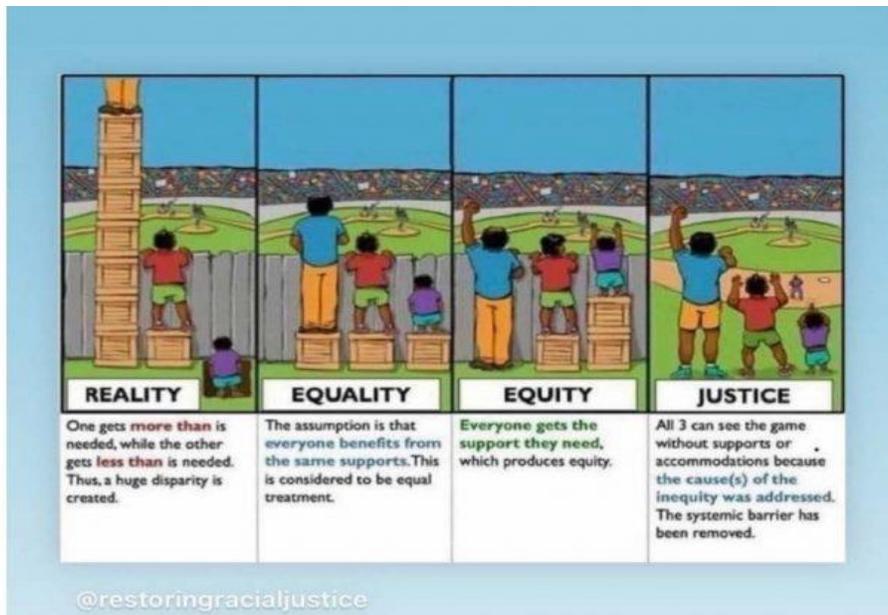
Re: Comment on Draft 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report

To the California Energy Commission,

The SB 350 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Advisory Group (DACAG) provides the following comments on the Equity and Environmental Justice Chapter and provisions in the Draft 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR).

I. The CEC Should Pursue Energy Justice and Adopt the Definition Contemplated by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The following image depicts some of the differences between equity and justice.



It is important for the CEC's environmental and energy justice guidance to recognize the distinction between equity and justice, in particular the need to address the causes of inequity and remove barriers to resources. This is particularly important in the energy landscape given the prevalence of barriers to adequate deployment of clean energy resources in Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) communities that the Legislature explicitly formed this Advisory Group to address.¹ Moreover, if the CEC is to prioritize its work to address these barriers, then this necessarily requires prioritization of programs and funding to truly benefit ESJ communities.

If we rightly acknowledge that environmental justice communities have been disproportionately burdened by the historical development and operations of the energy system, then we must similarly accept that this harm can only be undone by disproportionate future investments.²

The DACAG applauds the CEC for its desire to embed equity, environmental and energy justice in its decision-making and programs, but this also requires the recognition of historic harms, gaps and barriers. Consequently, the DACAG recommends that the CEC adopt a framework to center energy justice and use the definition contemplated by the U.S. Department of Energy:

For far too long, communities of color and low-income communities have borne the brunt of pollution to the air, water, and soil they rely on to live and raise their families. The clean energy revolution must lift up these communities that have been left behind, and make sure those who have suffered the most are the first to benefit.³

Similarly, community engagement has proven an effective means to eliminate several barriers to clean energy deployment in ESJ communities.⁴ The same cannot be said for more affluent areas of the state. The CEC should clarify that its recommendations for continued community engagement does not refer to *all* communities,⁵ but specifically to disadvantaged,

¹ See Senate Bill (SB) 350; SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A; Charter of the DACAG *available at* https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/infrastructure/disadvantaged-communities/dacag-charter-updated-march-2020.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=9237213411E88653040D370D055DC2C5.

² Fournier, Eric et al., *Net GHG Emissions and Air Quality Outcomes from Different Residential Building Electrification Pathways Within a California Disadvantaged Community*, 86 *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 104128 (2022), *available at* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2022.104128>.

³ Department of Energy, *Promoting Energy Justice*, *available at* <https://www.energy.gov/promoting-energy-justice>

⁴ See e.g. Evergreen Economics, *SJV DAC Pilot Projects Process Evaluation* (September 16, 2022) and Grid Alternatives, *2022 Marketing Education and Outreach Plan* (DAC-SASH) *available at* https://gridalternatives.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/DAC-SASH%202022%20MEO%20plan_March%202022%20FINAL.pdf

⁵ See CPUC Rulemaking 21-06-017, *Draft Distribution Planning Community Needs Assessment Study at 15*, defining "community" generically: "groupings of the individual people, typically tribal areas, cities, and counties, that rely on the electric distribution services that are eventually provided after distribution plans are developed and implemented by their utility provider."

low-income and other ESJ communities that face these barriers to, and have historically been last in line for, clean energy resources.

The DACAG further recommends that the CEC's environmental and energy justice guidance incorporate the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate justice principles of distributive justice, procedural justice, and recognition,⁶ interwoven with state, tribal, federal, and regional equity and justice principles, including but not limited to the DACAG "Equity Framework," and the DACAG-recommended "Energy Equity Indicators."⁷

II. The CEC Should Complete its Work on Non-Energy Benefits As Soon As Possible.

[ESJ community] households' below average per capita energy usage and above average transaction costs make it such that real world energy efficiency projects seldom "pencil out" as easily as they do within more affluent communities.⁸

This observation is not unique to energy efficiency projects, but applies to all clean energy programs, especially those focused on deployment of distributed energy resources (DERs). ESJ communities are often left behind, or receive a disproportionate share of benefits from state funded clean energy resources as a result of projects not "penciling out." Yet the reason for projects not penciling out is the CEC and CPUC's over-reliance on outdated cost-effectiveness tests. Those cost-effectiveness tests omit consideration of non-energy benefits (NEBs). As the Draft 2022 IEPR Update correctly notes:

Incorporating nonenergy benefits may produce greater benefits to all Californians by increasing the societal benefits produced by public funds. Incorporating and tracking these benefits supports investments essential to California's transition to a clean energy economy.⁹

Until the CEC and CPUC correct these omissions, clean energy program design and deployment will always be skewed towards the status quo and will not achieve energy justice. Our prior comments have emphasized the need to consider these benefits, in addition to the

⁶ IPCC Working Group II, Sixth Assessment Report, Summary for Policymakers at 7 ("The term climate justice, while used in different ways in different contexts by different communities, generally includes three principles: *distributive justice* which refers to the allocation of burdens and benefits among individuals, nations and generations; *procedural justice* which refers to who decides and participates in decision-making; and *recognition* which entails basic respect and robust engagement with and fair consideration of diverse cultures and perspectives.") [emphasis added] available at https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

⁷ See Updates to the Energy Commission Energy Equity Indicator Tools and Report (July 19, 2019) available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/files/uploadedfiles/cpucwebsite/content/utilitiesindustries/energy/energyprograms/infrastructure/dc/item-5-energy-equity-indicators-dacag-recommended-changes.pdf>

⁸ *Supra*, fn. 2.

⁹ Draft 2022 IEPR Update at A-8.

CEC and CPUC's recognition that the consideration of these benefits is long overdue.¹⁰ Moreover, the DACAG's Charter includes a Guiding Principle of the DACAG to:

Increase the benefits of clean energy programs in disadvantaged communities (e.g., by supporting growth in local employment and small business development, as well as other non-energy benefits including reducing pollutants and health risks).¹¹

Similarly, as the CEC and CPUC strive to "captur[e] potential DER value,"¹² the agencies should not assume that "potential costs associate[d] with DER deployment [are] shifted"¹³ to other non-participating ratepayers, absent an adequate consideration of NEBs.

While the DACAG appreciates the work to center environmental and energy justice in the 2022 IEPR Update and the continued development of the Energy Equity Indicators, as more fully detailed below, we are disappointed that the IEPR does not include this essential work on NEBs, especially as this was a significant issue originally scoped for analysis and development in the Draft 2022 IEPR.¹⁴

III. The CEC Should Maximize the Potential of the Energy Equity Indicators Tool.

The DACAG is encouraged by the CEC's commitment to future work on the Energy Equity Indicators, in particular to direct investment and potentially serve as a metric for program performance. The DACAG offers the following additional recommendations for development of the Indicators:

- Language regarding community engagement should specify a focus on low-income, disadvantaged and other ESJ communities that have faced barriers to clean energy resources, and would benefit from meaningful engagement. The CEC should not use the term "community" loosely and generically.
- The Indicators should specifically include the full range of NEBs.
- The Indicators should include longitudinal data and the ability to create reports on trends. In particular, this data should be used by the CEC to gauge and report effectiveness of legislation, policies, and programs.
- The CEC should add to definition of "clean" in Energy Data categories. The definition of "clean" should only include "non-combustion" and "non-emission sources."

¹⁰ See e.g. DACAG EE Business Plan Application Equity Comment, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=245162> (detailing recommendations in the CEC's SB 350 Barriers Study and the CPUC ESJ Action Plans to consider non-energy benefits).

¹¹ Charter of the DACAG.

¹² Draft 2022 IEPR Update at 98.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Scoping Order for 2022 IEPR Update, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242747&DocumentContentId=76300>

- The CEC should broaden the definition of “accessibility” to include grid accessibility (e.g., grid capacity relative to DERs) in addition to transportation.
- The CEC should include data sets on climate impacts (e.g., high heat days, drought, wildfire risk, sea level rise, etc.) that impact energy systems and delivery.
- The CEC should use more general population friendly formats for the Indicators Tool, such as Tableau (versus GIS) for accessibility and reporting.
- The CEC should conduct annual, regional climate science symposiums, perhaps coinciding with annual CEC Summits and IEPR workshops in low-income, disadvantaged and other ESJ communities.
- The Indicators should incorporate the findings of other publicly accessible tools (for instance, the PSE Healthy Energy “California Power Map” that provides, compares and visualizes data on California’s fossil fuel and bioenergy power plants (10 megawatts and larger), including the location of the plants, the demographics of nearby populations, and historical data about operations and greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.¹⁵

Sincerely,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

¹⁵ PSE Healthy Energy California Power Map, available at <https://www.psehealthyenergy.org/california-power-map/>

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	251686
Document Title:	SB 544 DACAG Letter - Updated
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/18/2023 1:45:18 PM
Docketed Date:	8/18/2023

July 21, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 544: Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing

Chair Holden,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) would like to provide the following comments on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 544](#), which grants meeting flexibility to the state, local agencies and other advisory groups governed by the Bagley-Keene Act.

The DACAG is an 11- member group that was formed by Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The DACAG's role is to review CEC and CPUC clean energy programs and policies to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including tribal and rural communities benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. Group members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

SB 544 codifies Governor's Newsom multiple Executive Orders Order N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Order N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); Order N-08- 21 (Jun. 11, 2021) allowing for public meetings to held via teleconferencing, telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to listen, participate, comment directly on agenda items or with commissioners, board or committee members. SB 544 would also waive the requirement of having the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or of the public as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting.

The DACAG is composed of 10 members from across the state, with no more than 6 members in one particular region. Since COVID-19, the DACAG has been meeting virtually and remotely, allowing for continued group member access, primarily from their residence or office without needing to publicly notice their location. By switching to a virtual and remote setting, we have seen an increase in public participation, given the video/audio option provided and the lack of needing to travel to a particular meeting location. This virtual option has also allowed our advisory group to maximize our own participation because we have been able to ensure quorums without the need for us to be in one location.

As stated by the Little Hood River Commission, "...remote access to all public meetings unquestionably increases the public's ability to monitor state government. The practical ability of board and commission members to participate remotely from their homes or private offices allows for this important segment of state government to increase efficiency, inclusion and flexibility." As this bill proceeds, we request that this bill include an emergency clause, allowing for the immediate implementation of the bill at the time of signing.

We do caution, however, on reducing public access to legislative or state body representatives. As been stated above, we agree with the increased benefit virtual/remote access provides, and we want to ensure members of the public still have access to decision-leaders face-to-face. The recent amendment requiring that state bodies make themselves publicly available by having at least 50% of their meetings in person and with quorum helps address this concern.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

The Disadvantage Community Advisory Group

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	252259
Document Title:	ITEM 7 Draft DACAG Equitable Decarbonization Letter 9-12-2023
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Patty Paul
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	9/14/2023 4:19:27 PM
Docketed Date:	9/14/2023

September 12, 2023

Chair Hochschild and Members of the Commission
California Energy Commission (CEC)
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Draft Program Guidelines

Dear Chair Hochschild and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group, we file comments on the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Draft Program Guidelines. We strongly agree with the Draft Guidelines' statement that "[b]uilding decarbonization must prioritize low-income, disadvantaged, and tribal communities, who bear the highest energy burden and have suffered the most from historical environmental injustices, economic disparities, and the current climate crisis."¹ We appreciate the staff of the Energy Commission recognizing this important concept and devising this program accordingly.

The DACAG is an 11- member group that was formed by Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The DACAG's role is to review CEC and CPUC clean energy programs and policies to ~~ensure~~determine whether those programs will be effective and useful in that disadvantaged communities, including tribal and rural communities, ~~benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs~~. Group members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

The DACAG strongly supports accelerated building decarbonization, including a focus on advancing decarbonization efforts in overburdened communities. We recognize the scope of this work is significant as methane interests have perpetuated a robust and unhealthy system that makes burning methane in homes an all-too-common occurrence in California. Still, California has allocated significant resources that can go towards improving our buildings. The following sections provide some more specific input on program implementation.

Initial Community Focus Area

We appreciate the thoughtful approach of the Draft Guidelines identifying communities for initial focus. The criteria appear well thought out. There is one area for improvement, which is ~~incorporation~~incorporating communities harmed by air pollution. The current draft language wisely includes the following criteria for initial community area focus: "Communities vulnerable to extreme heat, high fire risk, or other climate risks." In addition to vulnerabilities to climate change, we encourage

¹ Draft Guidelines, at pg. 1, available at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2023/equitable-building-decarbonization-direct-install-program-draft-guidelines>.

inclusion of areas experiencing high levels of ambient pollution levels. Thus, we recommend this criteria add the language in red below:

*Communities vulnerable to extreme heat, high fire risk, or other climate risks, **in addition to communities vulnerable to high levels of ambient pollution concentrations.***

By incorporating air pollution impacts, the program will more fully provide safer indoor spaces for communities that suffer from myriad days of unhealthy air outside.

Ensuring Contractors to Serve Overburdened Communities in Rural and Tribal Areas

As the Commission embarks on this program, we encourage continued monitoring of contractors to implement these programs. Particularly in rural and Tribal areas, building electrification and decarbonization is not yet supported by the contractor ecosystem. The Commission should do more to improve understanding of the deployment gaps (e.g., skills, product knowledge, access to incentives) that are barriers to contractors and end users conducting building decarbonization projects. This will be critical as it seeks to implement the Tribal specific programs, in addition to reaching rural communities through this program.

Strong Support for Tenant Protections

We appreciate the recognition of the program that there needs to be tenant information in predominant languages spoken in the community. In addition, [mandatory tenant protections should include](#) provisions to avoid temporary displacement, evictions, and rent increases. Given that the conduct of landlords can be hard to track, we encourage the Commission to allocate some resources to assess how effective these measures are at ensuring the laudable goals of tenant protection are met.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments, and we look forward to the work on equitable decarbonization.

Sincerely,

The California Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	252232
Document Title:	Item 5 DACAG Letter of Support Oakland Resilience Hubs 091523
Description:	*** THIS DOCUMENT SUPERSEDES TN 252228 ***
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	9/13/2023 4:23:39 PM
Docketed Date:	9/13/2023

September 15, 2023

CRC Program Manager Coral Abbott
California Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group Letter of Support: City of Oakland Implementation Grant Application (Community Resilience Center at Lincoln Square Park, Oakland Chinatown) and City of Oakland Planning Grant application (Community Resilience Center in West Oakland).

To Program Manager Abbott and the CRC Grant Application Review Committee,

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) was established by Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The 11-member group meets several times a year to review California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission clean energy programs and policies to determine whether those programs will be effective and useful in environmental justice communities. Group members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

Members of the DACAG recently visited Lincoln Square Park in Oakland, California and learned of plans for future Community Resilience Centers in Oakland. The members of the DACAG were impressed by the public/private partnership and collaboration apparent during the site visit and appreciated hearing directly from community members who conveyed the importance of Community Resilience Centers.

The DACAG supports Community Resilience Centers as critical interventions to mitigate the effects of pollution, extreme weather, power disruptions and earthquakes through facility improvements that provide cleaner air, heating, cooling, opportunities for respite centers, and backup power.

As the DACAG is invested in the well-being of disadvantaged communities, including increasing the benefits of clean energy in those communities, it enthusiastically supports the City of Oakland's Implementation Grant application for a Community Resilience Center in Oakland's Chinatown community. The proposed Community Resilience Center is sited in a census tract in the 91st percentile of CalEnviroScreen, has a low median income (about \$28,000), an elderly population (about 40% over age 65), a large population with access and functional needs (about 28% of the tract) and a language barrier (100% linguistic isolation on CalEnviroScreen).

The DACAG also enthusiastically supports the City of Oakland's Planning Grant application for a Community Resilience Center in West Oakland. This historically

African American community has suffered the joint impacts of redlining, poverty and severe exposure to pollution as it is surrounded by freeways on four sides and is impacted by freight traffic originating from the Port of Oakland and other locations. This Community Resilience Center is planned for a site in a census tract that scores in the 91st percentile on CalEnviroScreen and has very high asthma (99th percentile) and high rates of pollution (91% for diesel particulate matter).

If awarded, these grants have the potential to have a significant and positive impact on the Oakland Chinatown and West Oakland communities for many years to come as the effects of climate change continue to compound. We greatly appreciate the consideration of these proposals to create more resilient and connected communities. Please do not hesitate to contact our group through the California Energy Commission's Public Advisor, Mona Badie (mona.badie@energy.ca.gov) should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	246728
Document Title:	Item 5 Transportation Investment Comments 10-21-2022
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/21/2022 1:43:07 PM
Docketed Date:	10/21/2022

October 21, 2022

Re: Comments on the Clean Transportation Investment Plan

Dear Commissioner Monahan:

On behalf of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), we submit these comments on the Clean Transportation Investment Plan. As you are well aware, the DACAG has been extensively engaged in prior iterations of this plan for many years. We appreciate the CEC staff listening to us and seeking to incorporate our comments. This current investment plan provides an extraordinary opportunity not only to advance zero-emissions transportation, but also to do so in a way that benefits disadvantaged communities. We provide the following suggestions to the Commission as it finalizes the report and implements it.

- **Continued focus on zero-emissions.** The DACAG has consistently promoted the need to focus as much investments, if not all, on programs to advance zero-emissions transportation. We appreciate the continued focus of this plan and prior plans to shift towards this focus. The shift to zero-emissions in all forms of vehicles is critical to protecting the health of all Californians, but particularly critical to protect the health of disadvantaged communities. We appreciate the continued focus on this, and we look forward to seeing more and more projects roll out to provide infrastructure for vehicles large and small to electrify.
- **Ensure Equitable Distribution of Charging** – We are appreciative of the significant work the Commission has put in to advance equity in charging infrastructure, particularly for light-duty vehicles. We suggest the plan be consistent with the findings of the AB 2127 report, which identified a continued need to ensure equitable infrastructure deployments. This will mean continued focus on charging and other zero-emissions investments for the benefit of disadvantaged communities. We also suggest the funding continue to go to support infrastructure in places that have lagged in charging deployment (e.g. multi-unit dwellings).
- **Resources for Cities, Counties and Agencies** – We remain concerned that cities, counties, agencies, and tribal governments throughout California have staff that are stretched too thin to achieve this zero-emissions vision in California. We recommend exploring how these funds can help overcome these capacity barriers. We believe a good guiding post would be to focus resources on these capacity issues in cities, counties, and agencies to benefit communities identified through the AB 617 process. These types of investments could hasten the deployment of zero-emissions vehicles by helping to alleviate delays in the process of permitting and planning for zero-emissions. We recommend making sure public dollars do not just go to entities that can afford to hire expensive consulting firms to put together their applications. In addition, these capacity enhancing resources should be allocated to overcome barriers across vehicles sectors from light duty to heavy duty.
- **Provide Significant Investments to Public Agencies** – While we recognize private entities will necessarily receive significant funding under this program, the Commission should promote boosting investment for public agencies. Transit agencies, school districts, and other public entities are prime entities to move to zero-emissions. And, many of these agencies can provide discreet and concrete benefits to disadvantaged communities. Accordingly, we suggest shifting more resources to entities like transit agencies and school districts, especially as the Commission seeks to invest the recent additional money from this year's budget.

- **Offroad Equipment** – We continue to remain concerned that offroad equipment (ie locomotives, cargo equipment, etc) is imposing immense harm on disadvantaged communities through high levels of pollution. In addition, these sectors remain well behind other sectors in advancing zero-emissions solutions. To the extent permitted by law, we recommend the Commission identify how to use these funds to push forward zero-emission solutions in the offroad sector with a particular focus on large facilities impacting disadvantaged communities (e.g. railyards). Also, we encourage the Commission to use funding for Ports to push our seaports to advance zero-emissions in a broad range of equipment (e.g. commercial harborcraft, cargo-handling equipment, locomotives, and shipping).
- **Define Benefits More Effectively** – We remain concerned that some of the projects to invest in “clean” fuel deployments may not be providing benefits to disadvantaged communities. We suggest the Commission work hard to define benefits in a way that will mean emissions reductions because many fuel projects actually do not reduce emissions in the communities where the fuel is produced.
- **Work with DACAG on Program Design** – We encourage the Commission to continue to work with DACAG as it implements programs to ensure more equity. We are resources that we hope the agency will continue to engage.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments, and we look forward to continued work with the Commission on this vital program.

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	253160
Document Title:	ITEM 5 - FY 2023 to 2024 Transportation Funding Plan 11-15-2023
Description:	**** THIS REPLACES TN 253150 ****
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	11/16/2023 1:31:44 PM
Docketed Date:	11/16/2023

November 17, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC:

California Public Utilities Commission Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA EMAIL

Re: Comments on 2022-2023 the Clean Transportation Investment Plan

Dear Lead Commissioner Monahan and Members of the Commissioner:

On behalf of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), we submit these comments on the Clean Transportation Investment Plan. As you are well aware, the DACAG has been extensively engaged in prior iterations of this plan for many years. We appreciate the CEC staff listening to us and seeking to incorporate our comments. This current investment plan provides an extraordinary opportunity not only to advance zero-emissions transportation, but also to do so in a way that benefits disadvantaged communities. We provide the following suggestions to the Commission as it finalizes the report and implements it.

- Continued focus on zero-emissions – The DACAG has consistently promoted the need to focus as much investments, if not all, on programs to advance zero-emissions transportation. We appreciate the continued focus of this plan and prior plans to shift towards this focus. The shift to zero-emissions in all forms of vehicles is critical to protecting the health of all Californians, but particularly critical to protect the health of disadvantaged communities. We appreciate the continued focus on this, and we look forward to seeing more and more projects roll out to provide infrastructure for vehicles large and small to electrify.

- Use National Electric Vehicle Formula Funds on Medium and Heavy-Duty Charging – The Revised Draft Plan notes the following, “[t]he [NEVI] deployment plan focuses on investments in light-duty vehicle charging infrastructure and will consider projects that can also accommodate medium- and heavy-duty charging infrastructure.”¹ With \$384 million in NEVI formula funds, our estimate is there will be more than \$100 million for projects beyond light-duty charging projects. We urge the Commission to start spending these NEVI formula funds now on publicly available medium- and heavy-duty charging. There is such a need in this space, and NEVI can provide important near-term catalyst for projects. Waiting until all the light-duty projects are funding to move to funding medium- and heavy-duty projects makes no sense given the paucity of publicly available charging.

¹ Revised Draft Plan, at 39.

• Hydrogen Investment and Program Adaptive Management – The DACAG recommends conducting equity, economic, and carbon lifecycle analysis on hydrogen transportation investments as they are designed and after they are implemented, to ensure lowest pollution profiles, relative affordability (vs. electrification solutions), and optimized use of hydrogen (for example, in areas where electrified transportation is not feasible and/or less affordable than hydrogen). The DACAG further recommends exclusive use of green hydrogen (defined as hydrogen produced with electrolysis using clean, non-combustion energy sources for production processes) across all investments and programs. We appreciate the Revised Draft Plan recognizing the prevalence of “book and claim” for methane related to Hydrogen production in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program.² We encourage the Commission to show leadership and not allow gimmicks like “book and claim” that make fossil fuel derived Hydrogen appear green. This plan should not invest in projects that rely on “book and claim.”

• Ensure Equitable Distribution of Charging – We are appreciative of the significant work the Commission has put in to advance equity in charging infrastructure, particularly for light-duty vehicles. We suggest the plan be consistent with the findings of the AB 2127 report, which identified a continued need to ensure equitable infrastructure deployments. This will mean continued focus on charging and other zero-emissions investments for the benefit of disadvantaged communities. We also suggest the funding continue to go to prioritize infrastructure in places that have lagged in charging deployment (e.g. multi-unit dwellings).

• Resources for Cities, Counties and Agencies – We remain concerned that cities, counties, agencies, and tribal governments throughout California have staff that are stretched too thin to achieve this necessary zero-emissions vision. We recommend exploring how these funds can help overcome these capacity barriers. We believe a good guiding post would be to focus resources on these capacity issues in cities, counties, and agencies to benefit communities identified through the AB 617 process. These types of investments could hasten the deployment of zero-emission vehicles by helping to alleviate delays in the process of permitting and planning for zero-emissions. We recommend making sure public dollars do not just go to entities that can afford to hire expensive consulting firms to put together their applications. In addition, these capacity enhancing resources should be allocated to overcome barriers across vehicles sectors from light-duty to heavy-duty.

• Provide Significant Investments to Public Agencies – While we recognize private entities will necessarily receive significant funding under this program, the Commission should promote boosting investment for public agencies. School districts and other municipal entities are prime entities to move to zero-emissions. And, many of these agencies can provide discreet and concrete benefits to disadvantaged communities.

² Revised Draft Plan, at 57.

• Offroad Equipment – We continue to remain concerned that offroad equipment (ie locomotives, cargo equipment, etc) is imposing immense harm on disadvantaged communities through high levels of pollution. In addition, these sectors remain well behind other sectors in advancing zero-emissions solutions. To the extent permitted by law, we recommend the Commission identify how to use these funds and coordinate with other agencies to push forward zero-emission solutions in the offroad sector with a particular focus on large facilities impacting disadvantaged communities (e.g. railyards). Also, we encourage the Commission to use funding for Ports to push our seaports to advance zero-emissions in a broad range of equipment (e.g. commercial harborcraft, cargo-handling equipment, locomotives, and shipping). We appreciate that there will be funding in future years for “emerging opportunities,”³ but we encourage a focus on electrification in these sectors in this year funding allocation if possible.

• Define Benefits More Effectively – We remain concerned that some of the projects to invest in “clean” fuel deployments may not be providing benefits to disadvantaged communities. We suggest the Commission incorporate the content of the DACAG’s equity framework to inform the definition of benefits in a way that will mean emissions reductions because many fuel projects actually do not reduce emissions in the communities where the fuel is produced.

• Workforce Training and Development – We encourage staff to consider greater support for workplace development and training specifically for workers and job seekers in disadvantaged communities, including standards for investments and an evaluation process for those investments to track the number and quality of jobs created. In addition, we encourage staff to seek opportunities to address job quality and job access to clean energy sector jobs with living wages, within those communities.

• Work with DACAG on Program Design – We encourage the Commission to continue to work with DACAG as it implements programs to ensure more equity. We are pleased to see the Commission Staff will be releasing its pilot version of the benefits framework by the end of 2023.⁴

Many of these comments were raised in past iterations of the investment plan, and we continue to remain concerned that these issues be addressed. We appreciate your consideration of these comments, and we look forward to continued work with the Commission on this vital program.

Sincerely,
The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

³ Revised Draft Investment Plan, at 63.

⁴ Revised Draft Investment Plan, at 25.

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-OIR-06
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group
TN #:	250635
Document Title:	Item 10 j - CFI Support Letter
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Energy Commission
Submission Date:	6/15/2023 10:02:00 AM
Docketed Date:	6/15/2023

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for Electric Charging Portions of the West Coast Truck Charging and Fueling Corridor Project through the US Department of Transportation's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity 693JJ323NF00004

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I currently serve on California's Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group's (DACAG) as a Transportation Electrification Subject Matter Expert. My professional expertise in transportation electrification is based on my role as Chair of Earthjustice's Transportation Practice Group and my advocacy to advance zero-emission transportation and clean air policies for nearly two decades. The California Energy Commission and Caltrans briefed me on this project, and I – in my individual capacity – support the electric vehicle charging portions of the application of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) \$700 million Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program for the West Coast Truck Charging and Fueling Corridor Project.

This multistate project will support early deployment of infrastructure for zero-emission trucks along the West Coast. This first-of-its-kind project will enable zero-emission trucking from Mexico to Canada, linking ports and major freight centers in California, Oregon, and Washington. The project will play a critical role in alleviating significant air pollution and global warming emissions associated with medium- and heavy-duty vehicles GHG. The cities and regions that will benefit from this project constitute the majority of the most polluted areas in the United States, based on the major categories of air pollution tracked by the American Lung Association. This project will further support key policy actions in California, Oregon, and Washington that require the sale of zero-emission trucks beginning in model year 2024. This project will be critical to scaling the zero-emission truck industry and job creation expected with this transition.

Formation of the DACAG was called for in Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The 11-member group meets several times a year to review CPUC and CEC clean energy programs and policies to ensure that disadvantaged communities, including tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. Group members such as myself are appointed to represent disadvantaged communities. The DACAG has identified Transportation Electrification as a priority area to advance the interests of disadvantaged communities in California.

I cannot provide a letter of support on behalf of the DACAG without full DACAG approval by majority vote at a public meeting. However, the next public meeting of the DACAG will not occur until after the due date for this letter in support of the multi-state application. Please accept this letter in my individual capacity. I do intend to present this letter to the DACAG for discussion and possible approval at the June 16, 2023 meeting. If the DACAG approves the letter, I hope you are able to acknowledge it as well, when considering the merit of the West Coast Truck Charging and Fueling Corridor Project application submitted by California and its partner states.

June 12, 2023

Page 2

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions about the DACAG or my position on this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adriano L. Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Adriano L. Martinez

Member in my Individual Capacity

Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group