

DOCKETED

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California Energy Commission
Business Meeting Agenda

July 10, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In-person at:

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

Remote Access via Zoom™

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

Remote participation instructions are below, after the agenda items.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors. Commissioners may attend remotely in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2(j).

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to two minutes or less per person.

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

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

1. Public Comment.

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

2. Agency Announcements.

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

3. Consent Calendar.

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

- a. Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA). Proposed order approving the Executive Director's recommendation that SCPPA's amended power purchase agreement with Star Peak Geothermal LLC for the procurement of geothermal energy be found compliant with the Emission Performance Standard for Local Publicly Owned Electric Utilities pursuant to Public Utilities Code §398.1 et seq. and California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 2900-2913. Contact: David Gee
- b. Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC. Proposed resolution approving amendment 2 to Agreement 600-22-008 with Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, and adopting staff's determination that this project as amended is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The amendment will increase the project budget by \$700,000 to \$1,075,000, extend the project term by one year, and modify the scope of work to provide electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure modeling support for the Third Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment under Assembly Bill 2127 (Ting, Chapter 365, Statutes of 2018). (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Adam Davis
- c. Gridtractor, A California Corporation. Proposed resolution approving agreement ZVI-23-025 with Gridtractor, A California Corporation for up to \$28,199,009, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement provides \$2,499,987 to develop dynamic rates, deploy up to 30 chargers for electric farm vehicles with load management capabilities, and integrate load management software into up to 69 existing chargers in agricultural settings across various California counties. Additional funding up to the \$28,199,009 total may, with approval from the CEC's Executive Director through an amendment, be added to deploy up to 600 additional chargers. (General Fund Funding) Contact: Jeffrey Lu
- d. The Regents of The University of California, on behalf of the San Diego campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-003 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the San Diego campus, for a \$7,030,648 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will install at least 653 Level 2 EV charging ports to support convenient, high-visibility, low-cost charging at four locations on or near the University of California San Diego campus. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Sarah Birnbaum
- e. EVIUM CHARGING, LLC. Proposed resolution approving an additional \$129,743 in funding for agreement ZVI-23-019 with EVIUM CHARGING, LLC for a total of \$4,756,590, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will deploy and collect data on 474 Level 2 EV chargers at 13 sites at multi-family housing properties throughout the counties of Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Diego. (Clean Transportation Program Funding)

Contact: Bridey Scully

4. Assembly Bill 525 Offshore Wind Energy.

Proposed resolution approving the strategic plan that addresses the requirements set forth in Assembly Bill 525 (Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes 2021) directing the CEC to produce a strategic plan that charts a path forward for floating offshore wind energy development in federal waters off the California coast. This report is to be submitted to the Natural Resources Agency and the relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. Contact: Elizabeth Huber (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

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

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

~~**6. Information Item – Transportation Fuels Assessment Status Update (Docket No. 23-SB-02).**~~

~~CEC staff will provide an update on the transportation fuels assessment (TFA) being prepared pursuant to Senate Bill X1-2 (Stats. 2023, 1st Ex. Sess.). The TFA identifies options to ensure an adequate, safe, affordable, and reliable fuel supply during California’s transition away from petroleum fuels. Contact: Quentin Gee (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)~~

7. Emergency Rulemaking Implementing SB X1-2 Merchant Terminal Position Holder Reporting Requirements (Docket No. 23-OIR-03).

Proposed resolution adopting amendments to sections 1363.2, 1366, and Appendices A and B of Article 3, Chapter 3, Division 2 of title 20 of the CCR. The proposed regulations clarify and refine existing transportation fuel inventory reporting requirements set forth in Public Resources Code § 25354(k). The resolution also adopts staff’s determination that the adoption of these regulations is not a project under the CEQA and that, even if it were a project, it would be exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code § 15061(b)(2) and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15306, 15061(b)(3). Public Resources Code § 25367 authorizes the CEC to adopt these regulations, deems the adoption of these regulations to be an emergency, and provides that these regulations, if approved by the Office of Administrative Law, shall remain in effect for two years. Contact: Jeremy Smith (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

8. CHEERS Application to Register Low-rise Multifamily Projects for 2022 Energy Code Compliance.

Proposed order to: (1) recertify CHEERS as a Home Energy Rating System provider, and (2) approve the CHEERS application to modify its residential data registry to incorporate low-rise multifamily projects for compliance with the 2022

Energy Code. Contact: Armando Ramirez (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

9. Revised 2023 Additional Achievable Fuel Substitution (AAFS) Hourly Results of the California Energy Demand 2023-2040 Forecast.

Proposed resolution adopting a revision to the California Energy Demand 2023-2040 Forecast of Hourly and Peak Demand for Electricity adopted as part of the 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report proceeding for: (1) the AAFS scenarios adopted in February, and (2) the 2023 Gradual Transformation AAFS scenario adopted in May 2024. The revision fixes an error in an AAFS hourly input file, which incorrectly assigned cooling load shapes to a portion of the residential heat pump heating load. Contact: Nicholas Janusch (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

~~10. Charge Bliss, Inc.~~

~~Proposed resolution approving amendment 1 to agreement LDS-22-003 with Charge Bliss, Inc., and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This amendment will increase funding by \$3,500,000 and update the scope of work to include a microgrid controller procurement plan and implement cybersecurity controls and measures to improve the project's ability to serve the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, tribal members, and the local community during regional energy outages. (LDES Funding) Contact: Javier Flores (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)~~

11. Build It Green.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-005 with Build It Green for a \$4,775,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will design and develop and create a business plan for an easy-to-use electrical panel optimization tool to guide single family homeowners to adopt cost-effective electrification pathways that avoid unnecessary panel upsizing and increased grid loads. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Felix Villanueva (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

12. Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Proposed resolution approving agreement LDS-24-001 with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for a \$10,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will demonstrate a long duration energy storage system with a 3.6 MW, 8-hour battery at a SMUD facility in Sacramento and its capability and reliability to support grid distribution and transmission systems. (LDES Funding) Contact: Yahui Yang (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

13. ROUND 2 – RAMP 2022: Realizing Accelerated Manufacturing and Production For Clean Energy Technologies GFO-21-304.

This solicitation sought proposals to provide financial assistance to help clean energy entrepreneurs successfully advance their emerging best-of-class innovative technology to the low-rate initial production (LRIP) stage. LRIP is the first step in making the transition from highly customized hand-built prototypes, which are used for performance testing and vetting the production process, to the final mass-

produced end product produced in the full-rate production phase. This solicitation is part of the CEC's ongoing strategy to foster and support clean energy entrepreneurship across the state. This item includes nine projects, totaling \$23,006,490. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Benson Gilbert (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. Swift Solar Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-001 with Swift Solar Inc. for a \$2,999,880 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will design and build-out an LRIP line to manufacture high-performance perovskite-silicon tandem photovoltaic (PV) modules, including testing for efficiency and reliability in multiple applications in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- b. Stasis Energy Group LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-002 with Stasis Energy Group LLC for a \$1,878,583 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will expand the manufacturing capabilities for a novel thermal energy storage system, which can be easily added to any existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system to dramatically reduce late-day peak air conditioning energy demand, through the design and implementation of a LRIP line at a manufacturing facility in Southern California.
- c. Rincell Corporation. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-003 with Rincell Corporation for a \$2,999,528 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will design and build-out an LRIP line to manufacture high capacity, fast charging silicon anode lithium batteries with significantly higher cycle life and safety characteristics compared to other silicon anode technologies.
- d. Sonocharge Energy, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-004 with Sonocharge Energy, Inc. for a \$3,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will develop an LRIP line in San Diego for integrating surface acoustic wave technology into lithium-ion battery packs to enhance energy density and charging capabilities.
- e. Harvest Thermal. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-006 with Harvest Thermal for a \$1,658,385 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will develop an LRIP line in Alameda County to accelerate commercialization of a system that converts an ordinary water tank into a thermal battery which, combined with a smart controller, delivers space heating and hot water when needed, using the cleanest and cheapest electricity.
- f. Sylvatex, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-007 with Sylvatex, Inc. for a \$2,290,685 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will develop a megawatt-hour (MWh) scale LRIP line in Alameda of high-performance, low-cost cathode active material for lithium-ion batteries suitable for use in EVs and energy storage systems.

- g. BoxPower Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-008 with BoxPower Inc. for a \$2,988,031 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will advance the development of a turnkey containerized microgrid product to the LRIP line stage in Grass Valley, providing a utility grade renewable energy supply capable of rapid deployment to any location.
- h. Current Ways, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-009 with Current Ways, Inc. for a \$2,191,398 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund the design and build-out of an LRIP line to manufacture a high-performance onboard bidirectional EV charger in Ventura County.
- i. Wrightspeed, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-010 with Wrightspeed, Inc. for a \$3,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund the design and build-out of LRIP lines for a repower kit that enables the conversion of diesel medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks to EVs at a manufacturing facility in Alameda County.

14. California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Tribal Research Grant Program GFO-23-701.

This solicitation seeks to fund Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal-serving non-governmental organizations to conduct tribally led climate change research, assessments, and similar projects deemed a priority by the applying Tribe. Recognizing the relationship between the energy sector, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change, this effort builds research partnerships to study climate impacts with Tribal governments and tribal communities. This item includes six grant agreements totaling up to \$1,057,742. (STEP Funding) Contact: Quenby Lum (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-001 with Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians for a \$199,973 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians will treat approximately 57 acres of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians' Tribal Trust Land in Geyserville for pre- and post-fire fuel reduction, along with re-vegetation management using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The project will document Tribal traditional management practices; forest health issues; the application of fire in modern and historic silviculture practice; and the comparison of traditional Tribal practice to western forest management.
- b. Northern Chumash Tribal Council. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-002 with Northern Chumash Tribal Council for a \$199,070 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will support the Northern Chumash Tribal Council in its efforts to support the inclusion of indigenous ways of knowing into management decisions for a new federal sanctuary, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, off of the Central California coast. The project's goals include reducing the carbon footprint

of research by using low emissions and traditional Chumash methodologies that protect marine species and reduce the cost of sampling. This helps address cost and accessibility issues that limit climate-related research and data collection participation, particularly by marginalized groups. Including local Tribal groups will highlight indigenous knowledge systems and expand equitable access when managing traditional waters.

- c. Karuk Tribe. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-004 with Karuk Tribe for a \$200,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The Karuk Tribe will focus on restoring traditional food sources to Karuk community gathering areas in Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Karuk staff will gather seed and grow plants in a traditional food nursery at the Tishaniik Tribal Farm, identifying which traditional foods will thrive in the low elevation river climate at the farm, and how those plants can be returned to burned areas and tended to survive into maturity. This project will address the concerns that climate change has brought to traditional food sources by adding a traditional food component to the Tishaniik Tribal Farm.
- d. Pala Band of Mission Indians. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-005 with Pala Band of Mission Indians for a \$176,998 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will provide user-friendly tools and data for Tribes to conduct climate change resilience planning for extreme heat in and near Pala. By adapting the proven Exposures, Impacts, and Strategies Inventory (EISI) tool into an interactive module on the California Healthy Places Index: Extreme Heat Edition map platform, Tribes can dynamically map critical heat impacts, sensitive populations, and adaptive capacities in their communities. The platform will provide Tribes with customized lists of relevant adaptation strategies.
- e. Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-006 with Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association for an \$81,701 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will document traditional stewardship practices within pinyon pine forests in or near Lee Vining. Pinyon pine forests are the source of Tuba'a, a large nut that provides an important traditional food for the Tribe. Today with climate change, there are notable changes to pinyon forests, but the changes could be attributed to climate change, past agency management, disruption of traditional stewardship, or some combination of these and other factors. Documenting the changing dynamics of pinyon pine forests will allow for a more focused direction in managing the forests using traditional stewardship and Western science.
- f. Tamien Nation. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-007 with Tamien Nation for a \$200,000 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The Tamien Nation Climate Resilience Project seeks to revitalize indigenous cultural stewardship practices to strengthen

climate and wildfire resilience on ancestral lands at Henry Coe State Park in Santa Clara County. The project will provide professional hands-on training for the tribal cultural fire and land stewardship crew. The project will also concentrate on enhancing fire protection, long-term sustainability, and community education on climate change impacts.

15. Minutes.

- a. Possible approval of the June 12, 2024 Business Meeting minutes.
- ~~b. Possible approval of the June 26, 2024 Business Meeting minutes.~~

16. Lead Commissioner or Presiding Member Reports.

Lead commissioners on policy matters and presiding members on delegated committees may report to the CEC on relevant matters and discussion may follow.

17. Executive Director's Report.

18. Public Advisor's Report.

19. Chief Counsel's Report.

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another person or employee.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following pending litigation:
 - i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. vs. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).
 - ii. California Fuels and Convenience Alliance v. California Energy Commission, et al (Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000058).

In-Person Instructions

Visitors to the California Natural Resources Agency building attending the business meeting held in the first-floor auditorium should proceed directly to the auditorium and do not need to sign in at the lobby security desk. Please note that visitors are solely permitted in the auditorium, restrooms, and cafeteria without a visitor badge or staff escort.

Remote Access Instructions

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

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/93869230237?pwd=Zm96c09ULzdXTjd4eldtUXdnUGErdez09>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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