

DOCKETED

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Commissioners

Siva Gunda, Vice Chair
Andrew McAllister
Patty Monahan
Noemi Gallardo

Staff Present:

Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, Deputy Executive Director
Lisa DeCarlo, Acting Chief Counsel
Mona Badie, Public Advisor
Ryan Briscoe Young, Deputy Public Advisor
Dorothy Murimi, Public Advisor's Office
Sierra Graves, Director, Tribal Affairs and Tribal Liaison
Chad Oliver, Chief Counsel's Office
Michael Murza, Chief Counsel's Office
Gabriel Roark, Tribal Cultural Resources Unit
Audriana Kornfein, Schultz Fellow

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Cristy Sanada, Senior Manager for California Regulatory Affairs, California ISO	5
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- 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. Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).
 - ii. State of California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Standards Enforcement Legal Section: In the Matter of the Request for Appeal from Citation Issued Against: California Energy Commission; Anheuser-Busch, LLC, Respondents, State Case Number: 48-76293.
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P R O C E E D I N G S

2 JULY 10, 2024

10:01 a.m.

7

1 (Start of Introductory Video.)

2 MS. MURIMI: Welcome to the California Energy
3 Commission Business Meeting. Closed captioning via Zoom is
4 available for today's meeting. Attendees can use this
5 feature by clicking "CEC Closed Caption" or "Live
6 Transcript" and then selecting either "Show Subtitle" or
7 "View Full Transcript."

8 You can find the agenda for today's meeting,
9 presentation materials, and other links on the business
10 meeting event page. A Zoom recording of today's business
11 meeting will also be made available on the event page.
12 Please visit energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings to
13 find the event page for this business meeting.

14 Approved orders, resolutions and court reporter
15 transcripts will also be made available in this year's CEC
16 business meeting docket.

17 The CEC welcomes public comment at its business
18 meetings. To ensure the orderly and fair conduct of
19 business, public comments will be limited as announced and
20 a timer will be shown on the screen. To make a comment
21 please follow the instructions provided by the Public
22 Advisor's Office during the meeting. We ask that all
23 commenters spell their name and state any affiliation for
24 the record before making their comment.

25 Welcome to the California Energy Commission's

1 business meeting. The meeting will now begin.

2 (End of Introductory Video.)

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Good morning, everybody.

4 Thank you for being here. My name is Siva Gunda, currently
5 serving as the Vice Chair for the California Energy
6 Commission. Today is July 10, 2024. I call this meeting
7 to order.

8 Joining me on the dais are Commissioner Monahan
9 and Commissioner Gallardo. And also we have Jana Ganion,
10 the Governor's Special Advisor on Offshore Wind. Chair
11 Hochschild and Commissioner McAllister are absent today.
12 And in the Chair's absence I will be presiding over the
13 meeting today. We have a quorum.

14 So with that let us stand for the Pledge of
15 Allegiance.

16 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: We will start with public
18 comment, then move to agency announcements. Our Public
19 Advisor will provide the instructions.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you. Good morning, everyone.
21 Thank you for joining us today. I'm the Energy
22 Commission's Public Advisor and I'll be facilitating the
23 comment portions of our meeting today.

24 The Commission welcomes comments at this meeting.
25 If you'd like to comment on our offshore wind item on the

1 agenda, Item 4, we do ask that you reserve those comments
2 for the dedicated public comment period for that item,
3 which will be coming up shortly. This initial public
4 comment period is for any items that are not on the agenda
5 today, or do not have a dedicated public comment period
6 such as informational items.

7 And there's a few ways you can let us know you
8 like to comment. We've got QR codes that allow you to sign
9 in and let us know you'd like to comment. I will take a
10 show of hands also in the room. And then on Zoom, you'll
11 use the raise hand feature on your screen. It looks like
12 an open palm. Or if you're joining us by phone press *9.
13 That's how you let us know that you'd like to comment at
14 this time.

15 So we're going to start with folks in the room.
16 First, we have Sadaf Zahoor. Sadaf, if you can please
17 approach the podium. We are asking for comments to be two
18 minutes or less and it's helpful if you can spell your name
19 before beginning your comment.

20 MS. ZAHOOR: Hello, my name is Sadaf Zahoor, S-A-
21 D-A-F Z-A-H-O-O-R. And I'm a proud member of ACCE,
22 Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment. Many
23 ACCE members live in apartments owned by corporate
24 landlords who prioritize rent increases, fighting renter
25 protections to maximize profit. These corporate landlords

1 don't care about our needs for lower utility rural rates,
2 electrification, weatherization, and energy efficient
3 appliances that don't rely on natural gas.

4 Some of our members are also homeowners and face
5 many of the same types of economic challenges as low-income
6 tenants. As low-income households we need your help and
7 ask that the Energy Commission set aside a higher portion
8 of the rebates for low-income households. Advocate for
9 renter protections that are stronger, longer and more
10 enforceable than what the basic law requires. Use income
11 verification methods that are more accessible for our
12 community members. Design the rebate programs to combine
13 with other available resources, so that people can purchase
14 appliances at zero upfront costs, which is especially
15 important for low-income households. Design the rebate
16 program in a way that maximizes old home upgrades and
17 setting up one-stop shops, which is especially important
18 for low-income households. Ensuring limited English
19 communities have access to qualified contractors who speak
20 their language. And outreach materials, and strategies
21 that are culture and strategies that are culturally
22 sensitive, and their primary languages. Designate funds
23 for communities based on organizations like ours. Do
24 community outreach to inform our neighbors about resources
25 and programs to make our communities healthier and more

1 climate resilient.

2 In summary, we need your support, so we can
3 improve energy efficiency, improve indoor air quality by
4 eliminating the burning of natural gas, which is making our
5 families sick from respiratory disease, live in affordable,
6 resilient green housing.

7 And finally, we are interested in continuing to
8 have dialogue with you, so we can better understand the
9 needs of our community and help shape programs and
10 resources that promote a healthy, clean and green future
11 for all our families.

12 We are hopeful that the California Energy
13 Commission will partner with ACCE and others in our
14 community to ensure our neighborhoods aren't left behind
15 once again.

16 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment.

17 Next we'll hear from Melvin Willis. Melvin, if
18 you could please approach the podium. We're asking for
19 comments to be two minutes or less. There'll be a timer on
20 the screen. And also it's helpful if you can please spell
21 your name for our court reporter before beginning.

22 MR. WILLIS: Also, somebody's left their glasses
23 here as a heads up.

24 Good morning. My name is Melvin Willis, M-E-L-V-
25 I-N W-I-L-L-I-S. And I'm here representing the Alliance of

1 Californians for Community Empowerment, otherwise known as
2 ACCE. And speaking individually, I am a Richmond City
3 Council Member for District 1.

4 ACCE is grassroots member-led statewide community
5 organization working with more than 18,000 members across
6 California. Our members are low to moderate income and
7 predominantly people of color.

8 ACCE is dedicated to raising the voices of
9 everyday Californians, neighborhood by neighborhood, to
10 fight for policies and programs we need to improve our
11 communities and create a brighter future. For us to
12 improve our communities and create that brighter future
13 includes addressing the impact climate change and extreme
14 weather are having on our community members day by day.

15 ACCE members represent a population that is in
16 dire need of support from California's Energy Commission.
17 Too often we have no option, but to live in commercial
18 transit corridors with pollution, trucks, and traffic. We
19 struggle to pay the high cost of utilities, utilities that
20 keep on rising every year. Many of our children and elders
21 suffer from asthma and respiratory disease from stoves and
22 heaters that rely on natural gas. We live in neighborhoods
23 without green spaces or even tree covers.

24 We have limited affordable transit options. We
25 live in apartments owned by corporate landlords who fail to

1 provide basic maintenance and gouge us with rent increases
2 at every opportunity. We want to work with you to make
3 sure that new funds from the federal government, the
4 Inflation Reduction Act, come to our communities to meet
5 these needs.

6 I also want to share details about the exciting
7 project we are organizing to promote climate solutions in
8 Richmond, California. ACCE is working with Richmond and
9 PG&E on a neighborhood scale decarbonization project. This
10 campaign will help accelerate energy equity directly by
11 upgrading low-income homes and appliances such as electric
12 stoves, such as natural gas stoves, natural gas heaters and
13 dryers, and replace them with electric renewable
14 appliances. And we want to make sure we work with you to
15 make sure that this has no impact on low-income struggling
16 community members.

17 And we look forward to working with you. Thank
18 you for your time.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

20 Is there anyone else in the room who'd like to
21 come up at this time? If not, I will move to Zoom.

22 And I'm not seeing any raised hands on Zoom, so
23 back to you, Chair, or Vice Chair. Excuse me.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

25 Moving to Item 2, Agency Announcements.

1 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Good morning, everyone.
2 I'm Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, and I have a request. I
3 want to introduce one of the newest members of the
4 California Energy Commission. I am going to call on our
5 new Deputy Public Advisor, Ryan Young, to come up to
6 introduce himself.

7 And I just want to add that it's really special
8 to me that we have Ryan joining, because he is one of the
9 main reasons that I am in the energy space at all, and
10 started my journey for me to get to this position that I
11 have now. And he was an inspiration to me, because he
12 helped me see how important fundamental energy is. And he
13 has such strong policy expertise in terms of energy, he
14 enabled me to see it from all different angles and with
15 different lenses. And I am just really grateful that we're
16 going to have all of that expertise here in this role that
17 that he's taking up as Deputy Public Adviser.

18 Ryan, go ahead.

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Vice
20 Chair and Commissioners. My name is Ryan Briscoe Young and
21 I am very grateful and honored to be appointed to this
22 position. I hope to leverage my experience in public
23 policy and public service to the benefit of the Commission
24 going forward. And I'm very much looking forward to
25 supporting each of your offices and collaborating. Thank

1 you so much.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Ryan.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, thank you so much.

4 Thanks for being here and welcome on board. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I also want to
6 acknowledge that his parents are here today. So if you can
7 give a wave, everybody can recognize you. We love having
8 the family join us. And his partner Stephanie is also here
9 too, so we're really appreciative of the support.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
11 Gallardo, for that.

12 Ryan, welcome aboard. And thank you to your
13 parents for being here and supporting you on this journey.

14 I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July.
15 I just want to take a moment. You know, I moved from India
16 as an immigrant here to the United States and California.
17 I'm just incredibly grateful to be in this great, great
18 state that we call ours. And I also take a moment to
19 recognize that July is Disability Pride Month.

20 And so with that I just want to note that last
21 business meeting, I just want to take a moment to apologize
22 for CEC on the Zoom issue that happened on the 6.26
23 business meeting. I was not at the last business meeting,
24 but I understand we experienced some issues on Zoom
25 information that was originally posted for public access.

1 As soon as the issue was discovered, CEC paused the
2 meeting, resolved the issue, and recirculated the corrected
3 information on the agenda, website, and via social media
4 before resuming the meeting.

5 It's really important for us at the CEC to have a
6 good procedural equity into the process. And given that
7 there was a single item on offshore wind, and the
8 importance and how many people were lined up to provide
9 comments, I really take a moment to apologize and thank the
10 staff for quick action. And any constructive steps we can
11 take to make sure that doesn't happen again in the future.
12 For this again, I want to apologize on behalf of all CEC
13 and thank everyone for your patience.

14 Over the last few years, we've gotten resounding
15 feedback on Zoom options. So we'll continue to do
16 everything we can to make that option viable and really
17 easy for people to use.

18 With that, I also want to mention that today the
19 Commission seeks to approve over \$74 million in investments
20 contributing to our state's economy. I'm looking forward
21 to going through those items.

22 Again once more, I want to check with you, any
23 agency announcements from anybody else. Thank you.

24 With that I want to go through -- Mona, we
25 already introduced Ryan. Thanks again, Ryan. You're on

1 the agenda item already, so that was done.

2 So with that we'll go to Item 3, the Consent
3 Calendar. Any public comment on this item, Mona?

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Vice Chair.

5 Welcome, everyone. This is the public comment
6 period for Item 3, the Consent portion of our agenda today.
7 Once again, if you'd like to comment, we'll take raised
8 hands in the room. The QR code is also available to let us
9 know you'd like to comment. And if you're joining us on
10 Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on your screen or
11 *9 if joining by phone.

12 And at this time, I'm not seeing any raised hands
13 for Item 3, so back to you, Vice Chair.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

15 Unless there is any Commissioner discussion on
16 this item. (No audible response.)

17 Seeing none, Commissioner Gallardo, would you
18 like to move the item.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 3.

20 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: We will take the vote now.
22 Commissioner Gallardo.

23 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. My vote is aye as
2 well. The vote count is three and the motion passes.

3 Let's move to Item 4, Assembly Bill 525 Offshore
4 Wind Energy. Welcome Elizabeth Huber to present.

5 MS. HUBER: Good morning Vice Chair and
6 Commissioners. I am Elizabeth Huber, the Director of the
7 Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection
8 Division, or fondly known as STEP. On behalf of an
9 incredible group of offshore wind technical experts -- and
10 one of our primary authors, Melissa Jones, is in the
11 audience today, so I want to recognize her.

12 Again, we are here to present on the AB 525
13 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan for floating offshore
14 wind energy development off the California coast in federal
15 waters. I'm here today seeking your approval for the AB
16 525 strategic plan. Next slide, please.

17 This is a condensed version of the June 26
18 business meeting presentation. At that business meeting,
19 we listened to more than two hours of public comment that
20 ranged from different levels of support, and also voiced
21 concerns on the timing of publishing the final strategic
22 plan just the day prior on June 25th. To accommodate the
23 requests for additional time, the June 26 business meeting
24 vote was postponed until today. These additional two weeks
25 provided the requested time articulated by several

1 stakeholder groups that were needed to review and take a
2 position. It was not taken to -- we made this decision out
3 of respect to the many requests and for the additional
4 time.

5 And I also want to highlight that the strategic
6 plan is the fourth and final piece of work required by CEC
7 as directed by AB 525. Next slide, please.

8 So AB 525 is asking how we can capture the forces
9 of the wind and the open sea, and convert it to electricity
10 in a safe, responsible, economic, and equitable manner.

11 As you see from the visual it all starts with a
12 wind turbine. The ocean wind turns the blades around a
13 shaft inside the turbine where energy is generated. The
14 energy travels down hundreds of feet beneath the water
15 surface to cables buried under the seabed connecting to an
16 offshore substation. And then to a substation on land
17 where the electricity created out of the sea is transmitted
18 to homes and businesses.

19 The AB 5252 strategic plan discusses the
20 responsible, safe and equitable deployment by identifying
21 suitable sea space to support our offshore wind goals.
22 Improving our waterfront facilities and port
23 infrastructure. Training a workforce to support this
24 industry. Assessing transmission investments and upgrades.
25 Developing a permitting pathway. And ensuring the

1 strategic plan includes a reflection of the state's
2 priorities as it relates to data collection, analysis
3 methodology, impact identification, and mitigation
4 measures. While also identifying potential impacts on
5 coastal resources, fisheries, Native American indigenous
6 peoples, and national defense, and then by offering
7 strategies for addressing those potential impacts. Next
8 slide, please.

9 The result is the strategic plan, which was
10 published on January 19, 2024, in three volumes. Volume 1
11 is an overview of the actual strategic plan main report.
12 Volume 2 is that main report. And Volume 3 are the
13 technical appendices and supporting reports that we did in
14 order to complete the strategic plan.

15 I want to highlight in the main report, Volume 2
16 addresses AB 525's required chapters as well as additional
17 chapters on the history of offshore wind development,
18 floating offshore wind technologies, and current operations
19 on the East Coast and around the world. And a section
20 includes impacts and strategies to mitigate those impacts
21 to underserved communities. Next slide, please.

22 AB 525 directed the CEC to coordinate and
23 collaborate with specific agencies and we did more than
24 that. We aligned with our agency partners in developing
25 the strategic plan. As seen on this slide, the CEC aligned

1 with no less than nine state agencies to bring this final
2 strategic plan to fruition. So please take a look, and I
3 just want to verbally thank all the partner agencies that
4 were involved in this process.

5 The next slide plays a critical component to the
6 development of this strategic plan included outreach and
7 engagement from the public. AB 525 legislation
8 specifically defines the word "stakeholder," and they state
9 that for the purposes of AB 525 the term "stakeholder"
10 includes but is not limited to fishery groups, labor
11 unions, industry, environmental and environmental justice
12 organizations, and other ocean users.

13 The CEC and our state agency partners held more
14 than 200 meetings, more than a dozen workshops, and
15 multiple in-person and virtual meetings. This included
16 communications with more than 30 tribal governments through
17 tribal consultations, intergovernmental roundtables,
18 listening sessions. And currently 15 tribes are
19 participating in an ongoing monthly offshore wind tribal
20 Working Group.

21 Leading federal working groups and energy
22 interagency bi-weekly and monthly working groups were also
23 part of the two-and-a-half year process hosting topics,
24 specific workshops, and one-on-one conversations.

25 We also engaged in meetings with local

1 communities and underserved communities as well as
2 presented multiple times at the state's Disadvantaged
3 Community Advisory Group, who review clean energy programs
4 and policies to ensure disadvantaged communities benefit
5 from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction
6 programs.

7 And then finally, Chair Hochschild and I
8 presented the draft strategic plan to the State Lands
9 Commissioners at their April business meeting. As you
10 know, the State Lands Commission will be the CEQA lead
11 agency for environmental review and permitting of offshore
12 wind. Next slide, please.

13 The CEC received numerous public comments during
14 the last five months filed in the docket including more
15 than 500 pages of written comment.

16 Staff also received numerous verbal comments on
17 the strategic plan from the two workshops that were held on
18 March 20, and March 29 of this year.

19 Most parties expressed appreciation for the
20 comprehensive and detailed analysis and discussion
21 presented in the strategic plan. Most of the commenters
22 acknowledge offshore wind as a promising opportunity to
23 simultaneously address climate change, while stimulating
24 economic growth.

25 Some tribes local community members and

1 representatives from the fishing industry did express
2 outright opposition to offshore wind.

3 Additionally, tribes, local government, fisheries
4 and environmental justice groups raised concerns regarding
5 the potential development along California's coast and
6 wants assurance that we will protect our coastal line,
7 biological, and tribal resources.

8 Other commenters also called to the importance of
9 port development, knowing the critical role of staging and
10 integration sites to the early success of offshore wind
11 deployment. While other commenters raised concerns about
12 the potential impacts of port development, including the
13 implications to environmental justice communities and air
14 quality.

15 Several parties encouraged expeditious joint
16 agency planning and coordination of timely transmission
17 infrastructure development that aligns with proposed
18 offshore wind project timelines.

19 And finally, many commenters also know the
20 importance and need for a coordinated and comprehensive
21 permitting framework and understanding of agencies'
22 responsibilities, timeframes, and milestones in the final
23 strategic plan. Next slide, please.

24 While we recognize that the AB 525 strategic plan
25 does not resolve every concern, the strategic plan does

1 acknowledge and capture what we have heard through the two-
2 and-a-half year process from our stakeholder community.
3 With that said the changes made resulting in the final
4 strategic plan before you today are summaries of topic-
5 specific comments that were added to each chapter.
6 Recommendations were expanded with further detail. Further
7 detail was added regarding potential impacts outlined in
8 Chapter 4, including impacts to marine biological resources
9 and fisheries.

10 We included expanded discussion of potential
11 tribal impacts and comments, as well as an added section on
12 tribal energy sovereignty. We expanded discussion of
13 strategies to reflect comments received from the
14 underserved communities, including reducing pollution and
15 expanding community benefits.

16 We expanded discussion of needed port
17 enhancements including emphasizing the importance of
18 staging and integration sites in the near term.

19 And we refined discussion of workforce
20 development and projected job creation including clarifying
21 job creation is so associated with port development.

22 Most of the details were added regarding a
23 coordinated and comprehensive permitting framework between
24 federal, state and local agencies. Next slide, please.

25 So as we move forward the strategic plan responds

1 to the directive set forth in AB 525, and provides that
2 analytical foundation outlining recommendations for moving
3 forward with offshore wind energy development in
4 California, in a responsible and timely way that maximizes
5 benefits for all California workers, public, community and
6 tribes while protecting coastal and marine ecosystems and
7 tribal and cultural resources.

8 The final version expands on the draft published
9 in January, as I mentioned earlier, on how achieving
10 California's offshore wind energy goals will require an
11 unprecedented level of planning and policy development to
12 effectively implement offshore wind and to protect the
13 state's natural, cultural, and economic resources.

14 And now before I close I would like to invite up
15 Jana Ganion to speak. Jana is the Governor's Senior
16 Adviser on Offshore Wind.

17 MS. GANION: Thank you, Elizabeth.

18 Good morning, everyone. It's great to be here.
19 First of all, I just want to start that in this heatwave
20 please take good care of yourselves and others. And for a
21 starting point for resources if needed, please visit
22 heatreadyca.gov -- I'm sorry, heatreadyca.com.

23 It's impossible to overstate the thanks to the
24 Energy Commission for its leadership and extraordinary hard
25 work and coordination across nights and weekends to

1 finalize the AB 525 Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind
2 Energy. It's been developed spanning the last two years as
3 we've heard, and has been the work of many, many people in
4 this room and outside it.

5 Importantly, this plan has been shaped and
6 improved by tribes and tribal governments, local
7 governments, federal agencies, community-based
8 organizations, environmental organizations, justice
9 organizations, labor unions, ports, climate and energy
10 experts, fisheries, industry representatives, and many
11 others.

12 In the June 26th California Energy Commission
13 business meeting, dozens of people and organizations showed
14 up in person and virtually to share their priorities and
15 perspectives.

16 We heard from tribal nations that CEQA should not
17 be shortchanged. And that with proper consultation,
18 partnership, and participation with tribal nations in
19 offshore wind, we can get our energy solutions right.

20 We heard strong support for science, research,
21 and traditional ecological knowledge. That fish are the
22 lifeblood and that more answers are needed. That offshore
23 wind must be undertaken with great care and responsibility
24 with respect to fish in the environment, because energy
25 projects of the past have not had the best record. But

1 with collaboration and a plan, offshore wind can be an
2 example of how to do it right.

3 We heard from labor unions and partners to make
4 sure the needs of working people are met, so that they can
5 see the benefits of this industry in their own lives. And
6 they stated the plain question of what happens if we don't
7 act.

8 We heard from environmental groups that offshore
9 wind has the potential to reduce pollution at ports and
10 elsewhere, and support for protective operational measures
11 to avoid vessel strikes and secondary entanglement among
12 other concerns. We heard support for offshore wind and its
13 potential grid benefits to reduce reliance on and retire
14 natural gas plants.

15 We heard support from fishing parties for NOAA's
16 National Centers For Coastal Ocean Science in costs,
17 spatial model process for the sea space identification
18 going forward. This provides increased transparency and
19 upfront engagement in sea space considerations. And we
20 also heard from fishing parties that we can and should
21 learn deeply from the first five offshore wind projects in
22 California.

23 These and hundreds of additional thought partners
24 have devoted their time and expertise to focus on the
25 development of offshore wind energy and its related

1 sectors. And those sectors are ports, transmission,
2 ecosystem adaptive management, workforce development,
3 supply chains in California for its many potential
4 benefits, greenhouse gas reductions, decarbonization
5 reliability, diversity in the grid mix, opportunities for
6 employment and innovation and as a part of California's
7 progress to 100 percent clean energy by 2045.

8 The strategic plan provide directional priorities
9 to guide the lion's share of the work, which is still in
10 front of us, which is implementation.

11 It provides the basis for benefits, labor
12 agreements, community benefits, public-private
13 partnerships, and altogether provides a strong foundation
14 for advancing actions from here with strength, ingenuity,
15 and equity.

16 It provides a strategic outline of the many
17 pillars of success for a rapidly evolving set of industries
18 within the climate crisis. And addresses the unsustainable
19 warming of our oceans, air and lands, that provides the
20 overarching context for the increasing sense of urgency for
21 this offshore wind work.

22 Ultimately, it provides significant information,
23 which leads to education, which creates more space for us
24 all to work together. Thank you again for joining today's
25 discussion. And I look forward to the next steps.

1 MS. HUBER: Thank you very much.

2 So as we conclude recommendations, I do want to
3 point out to each of you voting today that we have not
4 changed anything since it was published on June 25th. But
5 we did talk to the Chief Counsel's Office and we did note
6 in one recommendation under the tribal section where we
7 inadvertently merged two sentences into one recommendation.
8 And it was a little confusing and the guidance we got was
9 that as long as we just separate it with an enter key and
10 put a period it's an annotation. And that too will take
11 care of the clarification between federally recognized and
12 non-recognized tribes. So I just wanted to point that out
13 for you.

14 And they're already on my final slide, so this
15 strategic plan I want you to know is just the beginning.
16 And we will continue discussions with tribal governments,
17 underserved communities, fisheries, additional stakeholders
18 and federal, state, and local agencies.

19 We will continue to explore, enhance, and advance
20 the recommendations and strategies developed in the
21 strategic plan. And the CEC specifically will continue to
22 support our partner agencies, including our lead CEQA
23 agency, the State Lands Commission, and the Coastal
24 Commission in their lead role, and as well as the
25 California Public Utilities Commission, with regards to

1 transmission planning and deployment.

2 So with that said, we will also be fulfilling
3 additional offshore wind requirements under Assembly Bill 3
4 on port readiness and supply chain development, as well as
5 administer the ports grant and the volunteer grant programs
6 as required under Assembly Bill 209.

7 So the CEC work continues, but for today we ask
8 that you adopt the AB 525 Offshore Wind Energy Strategic
9 Plan. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Elizabeth, so much
11 for that presentation. You know, we'll have comments from
12 the dais a little later, but for now we'll move to public
13 comment.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Vice Chair.

15 Once again, this is Mona Badie, the Public
16 Advisor here at the Energy Commission. We're going to have
17 a split public comment period for this item only. And
18 first we'd like to hear from tribal governments or
19 leadership, excuse me. And then we will move on to our
20 general public comment for Item 4.

21 So if you are here with a California American
22 tribal government or leadership, we'd like to reserve this
23 time up front to hear your comments. We are asking for
24 comments to be two minutes or less. And if you're in the
25 room with us, you can raise your hand. You can also use

1 the QR code. And if you're on Zoom and you're with a
2 tribal government or tribal leadership, we'd ask that you
3 please use the raise hand feature on your screen or *9 to
4 raise your hand at this time.

5 And then after we hear from our tribal partners,
6 then we will move to general public comment and I'll do
7 another call for hands. One moment, please.

8 All right. Ysabelle Yrad, I think we've got you.
9 Okay, so I'm going to open your line. If you could, please
10 unmute on your end. And we're asking for comments to be
11 two minutes or less. Hold on one moment. All right,
12 Ysabelle, your line is open.

13 MS. YRAD: Hello, can you hear me okay?

14 MS. BADIE: Yes.

15 MS. YRAD: Okay, great. Hello. I'm Ysabelle
16 Yrad. It's spelled Y-S-A-B-E-L-L-E. Last name is Y-R-A-D.
17 I'm based in Irvine. I'm a West Coast Ocean Alliance
18 Fellow posted at Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally
19 recognized tribe in Humboldt County.

20 I spoke on the June 26th meeting first, just
21 like today, in Newport Beach. And I'll just keep my
22 comments brief. I'm speaking towards the approval for the
23 strategic plan to responsibly plan for offshore wind in
24 California with the partnership and meaningful inclusion of
25 tribes in frontline communities.

1 On behalf of Blue Lake Rancheria, the tribe hopes
2 for state responsibility and continued partnership relative
3 to environmental and cultural protections, opportunities to
4 advance socio economics and community growth through
5 engagement with this emerging industry.

6 And of course, assurances that environmental
7 protections are not compromised, including that for CEQA.

8 And offshore wind, in my own thoughts is the
9 potential environmental justice question of our time.
10 Meaning can sustainability, development, and renewable
11 energy coexist together.

12 At this time, there are more questions than
13 answers, but my hope is that the Commission moves forward
14 as responsibly as possible by being both environmentally
15 and culturally responsive with decision making and the
16 inclusion of tribes. The strategic plan articulates the
17 what, but there is so much more work to do, and does not
18 yet include the how, the action.

19 BLR also recognizes the opportunities associated
20 with offshore wind, but also wants to uplift the continued
21 need for scientific inquiry. That includes the direct role
22 of tribes in that decision making and co-development of
23 research questions. Thank you so much.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25 Next we'll hear from Chair Tucker. Chair Tucker,

1 I'm going to open your line. If you could, please unmute
2 on your end and we're asking for comments to be two minutes
3 or less. One moment. Okay, Chair Tucker, open your line.

4 CHAIR TUCKER: Good morning, everyone. My name
5 is Mona Tucker, M-O-N-A, T-U-C-K-E-R. I live in San Luis
6 Obispo County on the Central Coast of California. And I am
7 a Tribal Chair for yak tit^{vu} tit^{vu} yak tilhini Northern
8 Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region.

9 I appreciate that you delayed your decision on
10 this plan allowing a few more days for everyone to review
11 it. However, as a small non-federally recognized tribe, we
12 don't have an agency with hundreds or thousands of
13 employees and budgets in the millions in which to quickly
14 try to assess what the plan says. So I believe enough time
15 was still not given to adequately access this lengthy
16 document that included nine state agencies and is an
17 experimental project.

18 Many recommendations have been made in the plan
19 to protect California native tribes, cultural resources,
20 both offshore and onshore, and to protect our precious
21 marine life. Many of these recommendations are a result of
22 over 20 CEC meetings with California tribes, and maybe
23 numbers approaching 30 meetings. Avoidance (phonetic) of
24 cultural resources are among the recommendations and we
25 call upon policymakers to make sure that the

1 recommendations become requirements.

2 I also have a question that has been lingering
3 now for years, and that is the cost of the power to the
4 ratepayers, the people of California. As you all know,
5 California pays the highest rates in the nation except for
6 Hawaii. So what will this cost and who can afford it?

7 I'll end by saying that my tribe appreciates the
8 support and the countless hours extended by the CEC to
9 bring valuable information to California tribes. We want
10 to recognize Rachel McDonald and Sierra Graves for their
11 ongoing commitment to California tribes and bringing us
12 some really very good information.

13 And that concludes my comments. Thank you.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you so much.

15 Now at this time we'd like to again ask if
16 there's any tribal governments leadership, tribal
17 representatives on the line. We'd like to reserve this
18 time for you for public comment, and then we'll move on to
19 general public comment.

20 And I have a couple of hands that are up and I'm
21 not sure if you are with tribes. So if you are not with a
22 tribe, I ask that you lower your hand to help us out, so we
23 can make sure we're prioritizing. And I will do another
24 call for hands and we will hear from everyone, so don't
25 worry about time. All right, and I'm not seeing any other

1 tribes. So we'll move on to general public comment.

2 So if you would like to comment on Item 4, please
3 let us know at this time. If you're in the room, I will
4 take a show of hands. And we also have folks that have
5 signed up using our QR code to comment. And if you're on
6 Zoom, you can go ahead and start using the raise hand
7 feature on your screen, or *9 if you're joining by phone.
8 And let me just let that populate for a bit.

9 Okay. We will start with folks in the room. So
10 first off, we'll hear from Kelly Boyd. Kelly, if you could
11 please approach the podium. We're asking for comments to
12 be two minutes or less. And it's very helpful if you could
13 spell your name before beginning your remarks.

14 MR. BOYD: Yes, thank you. Good morning. Kelly
15 Boyd, K-E-L-L-Y B-O-Y-D with Equinor. We have the Atlas
16 Wind Project off the Central Coast. I want to just today
17 really thank the staff of the Commission for years of work
18 on this, and especially over the last six months with all
19 the agencies. Of course we strongly support and would like
20 to see it voted on today. Thanks to the Commission, and
21 all the agencies and all of the stakeholders we've been
22 working with over the last few years. Thanks very much.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

24 And next we'll hear from Adam Stern. Adam, we're
25 asking for comments to be two minutes or less than just a

1 reminder to please spell your name before beginning. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. STERN: Thank you. It's Adam Stern, A-D-A-M
4 S-T-E-R-N. I'm the Executive Director of Offshore Wind
5 California. We're a trade group of technology companies
6 and offshore wind developers.

7 First of all, I also want to thank the
8 Commissioners and the staff, and the staff of the other
9 agencies for all your work over this process. The
10 thoroughness with which the Commission has approached this
11 two-and-a-half year effort has been well worth the wait.
12 The real challenge that begins now is to turn the plan into
13 steel in the water, clean energy on the grid, and thousands
14 of family wage jobs among other benefits, all while
15 protecting marine life, and tribal resources.

16 We appreciate the process the Commission has
17 created for this plan and the consultation with all the
18 stakeholders who have participated. This is the way to get
19 things done in California responsibly, caring for the
20 strong legacy with natural resources and tribal resources
21 that we have here in California. And delivering the many
22 benefits for which generations will be grateful. Thank you
23 very much.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25 And next we have Jignesh Parikh. Are you here

1 for Item 4 or maybe for RAMP, Item 13. Okay. Okay, thank
2 you.

3 Okay. Next, we'll hear from Molly Croll. Molly,
4 if you could please approach the podium. Again, we're
5 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. And if you
6 could please spell your name that'll help our court
7 reporter

8 MS. CROLL: Hello, everyone. I'm Molly Croll, M-
9 O-L-L-Y C-R-O-L-L. I'm the Pacific Director of Offshore
10 Wind, American Clean Power Association.

11 Once again, I just wanted to thank the Energy
12 Commission for this very thoughtful and thorough strategic
13 plan. Also very much appreciate the Energy Commission's
14 care in soliciting feedback from stakeholders and tribes
15 and look forward to working with you and sister agencies on
16 implementation of the plan. ACP very much supports
17 approval of the plan today. Thank you.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 Next we'll hear from Alexis Sutterman. Alexis,
20 if you could please approach the podium. We're asking for
21 comments to be two minutes or less and if you could also
22 spell your name before you begin remarks that will help us
23 with our record.

24 MS. SUTTERMAN: Good morning, Commissioners and
25 staff. My name is Alexis Sutterman. It's A-L-E-X-I-S,

1 Sutterman is S-U-T-T-E-R-M-A-N. I'm hear speaking on
2 behalf of Brightline Defense. We are an environmental
3 justice organization that advocates for equitable and just
4 development of offshore wind as a tool to bring cleaner
5 air, good paying jobs, and a more reliable power grid.

6 If California does not take action on offshore
7 wind, we're greatly concerned that we would see prolonged
8 reliance on fossil fuel energy and perpetuate toxic
9 pollution in environmental justice communities.

10 Fortunately, we see the California strategic plan that's
11 going to be voted on today as an important step forward in
12 catalyzing offshore wind and bringing economic health and
13 reliability benefits for environmental justice communities.

14 We recognize how much research, writing, mapping,
15 stakeholder engagement and other important activities has
16 gone into drafting this plan. And we greatly thank the
17 Energy Commission and staff for demonstrating unprecedented
18 leadership on this front, including by delaying the vote to
19 give additional time for public review.

20 Overall, Brightline really appreciates that the
21 plan emphasizes the importance of meaningful engagement
22 with local communities and tribes. And outlines key
23 strategies for this, including identifying the resources
24 and the capacity for these communities and tribes to
25 engage, supporting enforceable community benefits

1 agreements, supporting tribal hiring standards and project
2 labor agreements, and prioritizing infrastructure projects
3 with co-benefits for communities, in addition to
4 proactively finding ways to mitigate and reduce pollution
5 throughout the process.

6 We also appreciate that more detail was added
7 into the final plan illustrating a possible timeline for
8 different permitting reviews in response to stakeholder
9 feedback for more clarity on roles.

10 We believe that the final strategic plan will
11 serve as a strong roadmap for the work ahead. But of
12 course, there's a lot of work ahead. And we emphasize that
13 thoughtfulness, transparency, and a commitment to equity
14 and justice will be key in moving us along. We look
15 forward to continuing to partner with the Commission,
16 tribes, stakeholders, local communities, and other
17 advocates on these issues in the months ahead. Thank you.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you very much.

19 And then before I move on to Zoom, is there
20 anyone in the room?

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Sorry, Public Advisor,
22 for interrupting?

23 Alexis, I have a question for you if you could
24 come back up it should be quick. I'm just curious, you
25 mentioned something about a delay. Did you say -- I just

1 wanted to make sure I understood, you appreciated the delay
2 that already happened or you would --

3 (Audio cuts out briefly.)

4 MS. SUTTERMAN: (Indiscernible.)

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you so much.

6 Thank you, Public Advisor.

7 MS. BADIE: All right, before we move on to Zoom,
8 if there's anyone in the room that would like to make a
9 comment, we can take some hands.

10 All right, I'm going to move to Zoom now. And
11 we'll start with Sofi Magallon. And I'm going to open your
12 line, Sofi. We are asking for comments to be two minutes
13 or less and we've got your name on the screen, so you don't
14 need to spell it if it's the correct spelling.

15 MS. MAGALLON: Thank you. Good morning, members
16 of the Energy Commission. My name is Sofi Magallon. I am
17 a community member from Oxnard and with the organization
18 CAUSE.

19 I'm calling in to thank CEC staff for meeting
20 with CAUSE and CEJA Regenerate Coalition to address our
21 questions and concerns about the Energy Commission's
22 recently revised AB 525 plan. Specifically regarding plans
23 to shut down gas plants in frontline communities,
24 responsible equitable and transparent port development
25 process, and community benefits for offshore wind. We are

1 grateful that CEC staff is planning to deepen collaboration
2 and coordination with environmental justice groups, tribal
3 nations, and poor communities to safeguard public health
4 and safety.

5 It is our ask and hope and expectation that CEC
6 staff will follow through on commitments made to schedule
7 regular meetings with these groups, to continue discussing
8 goals, priorities, and concerns around offshore wind. We
9 look forward specifically to working with CEC staff on
10 using offshore wind as a pathway to shut down power plants
11 in frontline communities like my hometown of Oxnard, which
12 has borne the burden of having gas plants along our
13 coastline.

14 Gas plants harm health, damage land, and are
15 costly during heat waves. Expanding offshore wind capacity
16 can phase out these plants ensuring cleaner and healthier
17 communities.

18 And the development of offshore wind needs to be
19 done in a responsible, transparent and equitable manner,
20 ensuring that the health of our communities will not be
21 sacrificed in the process especially for port communities.
22 It is crucial that the port and waterfront facilities begin
23 their transition to zero emissions machinery and
24 technology, so offshore wind development does not cause
25 more pollution in these underserved communities. They

1 already suffer from higher rates of cancer, asthma, and a
2 shorter life expectancy as a result of port activities.

3 I lastly asked the CEC begin to move community
4 recommendations past the acknowledgement phase and into the
5 implementation phase and look forward to continuing our EJ
6 conversations. Thank you for your time.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

8 Next we'll hear from Jacqueline Moore.

9 Jacqueline, I want to open your line. If you could please
10 limit your comments to two minutes or less.

11 MS. MOORE: Wonderful, thank you. Good morning.
12 I am Jacqueline Moore of the Pacific Merchant Shipping
13 Association. My name is spelled J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E M-O-O-
14 R-E.

15 I'd first like to extend appreciation of
16 rescheduling the resolution at the last business meeting,
17 allowing us all more time to read and provide comments
18 today. The one stakeholder you did not hear during today's
19 presentation was shipping, who will need to share the same
20 ocean waters with the turbines. Unfortunately, the plan
21 lacks any identification and analysis of potential impacts
22 to the industry.

23 This strategic plan fails AB 525. It must
24 address and ensure navigational safety and accommodate
25 these in offshore efforts. Risks and impacts are

1 inevitable and frankly, it's confounding that there is
2 resistance to include the maritime industry in this vital
3 plan.

4 To be clear, the industry is not opposed to
5 offshore wind development. Our members have significant
6 interest in offshore wind. Our vessels will import the
7 turbines and components. Our marine terminals and
8 stevedores load and unload when equipment. And our members
9 have already entered the offshore support vessel space.
10 The commercial maritime industry is the principal ocean
11 spatial planning stakeholder.

12 This plan creates the framework that other states
13 as we've seen recently in Oregon, for example, that will
14 rely on. But it excludes a key stakeholder and one that
15 the offshore industry ultimately needs. This is certainly
16 not in the spirit of the legislation that compelled this
17 plan. And AB 525 remains unfulfilled.

18 Thank you for the time. That concludes my
19 comments.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

21 Next we'll hear from Azsha. Azsha, I don't have
22 a last name on the Zoom. I'm going to open your line. If
23 you could please keep your comments to two minutes or less.

24 MS. HUDSON: Hi, this is Azsha Hudson, H-U-D-S-O-
25 N, for my last name. Good morning, everyone. I'm a Marine

1 Conservation Analyst and Program Manager with the
2 Environmental Defense Center based in Santa Barbara. We
3 are a public interest law firm that defends nature and
4 advances in environmental justice on the California Central
5 Coast through advocacy and legal action.

6 We want to thank the Commission and staff for
7 working to extend the time given to review the changes made
8 to the strategic plan. The plan is a good step towards
9 developing offshore wind responsibly as it maintains good
10 environmental considerations and acknowledges that there
11 are many unknowns.

12 The strategic plan integrated the comments
13 received from the public as well, and we are hopeful that
14 these elements will continue to be addressed and applied as
15 the process moves forward. Moving forward while we
16 understand offshore wind will require coordination from
17 multiple agencies at the state and federal level, we hope
18 to see improvements in timelines by the CEC to facilitate
19 meaningful public engagement on this complex issue in the
20 future. Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22 Next we'll hear from Theral Golden. Theral, I'm
23 going to open your line. We are asking for comments to be
24 two minutes or less.

25 MR. GOLDEN: Good morning, my name is Theral

1 Golden. I'm a member of the West Long Beach Association
2 and a resident of Long Beach, California. This plan does
3 not take into consideration the negative health impacts
4 that it will produce on this 617 community. The
5 communities of Carson, West Long Beach, and Wilmington are
6 already disproportionately being affected by the current
7 activities at the Port. And to increase that activity with
8 a major manufacturing facility at the heart of it, is in my
9 opinion, distrustful to government.

10 It creates a situation of some of my residency,
11 almost like genocide. We are losing more than three people
12 a day to the current pollution. This plan does not
13 alleviate that, it increases that. No person in my
14 opinion, or the opinion of some of my neighbors, would even
15 conceive of it at this particular time. We have a 75 to
16 100-year legacy of death from the current pollution and to
17 add more pollution to this area, it is insane. It is not
18 good government and it should not pass as it is currently
19 written.

20 We do not oppose offshore wind. We do oppose the
21 development of it here in our back yards where we already
22 dying from this pollution. These ports have not met the
23 EPA eight-hour ozone level that was given to them over 20
24 years ago to meet. But yet still you want us to accept
25 more pollution. That is not what America is about. That

1 is not what this state should be about. At this particular
2 time, we should be looking for alternatives and there is
3 not one in this strategic plan. Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

5 Next we'll hear from Lilitiana Griego. Lilitiana, I
6 am going to open your line. You'll unmute on your end. We
7 are asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

8 MS. GRIEGO: Hello, good morning. My name is
9 Lilitiana Griego, L-I-L-I-A-N-A G-R-I-E-G-O. I'm with
10 Audubon California. I'm the Senior Coastal Program
11 Manager, and we work to protect birds and the places they
12 depend on.

13 First, I want to thank the Commission for
14 delaying the vote to approve the final strategic plan.
15 This action really encourages us on how this process will
16 proceed in the future to ensure meaningful public
17 engagement.

18 Audubon science indicates that two-thirds of
19 North American birds are more likely to be pushed towards
20 extinction due to climate change, and our seabirds have
21 declined by as much as 70 percent since the 1950s.
22 However, with these facts Audubon believes that well
23 planned offshore wind projects can give us a sense of
24 optimism for future. Audubon supports the approval of the
25 strategic plan, because it emphasizes that impacts to birds

1 and other resources must first be avoided, and then be
2 fully mitigated whenever possible.

3 In addition, the plan reflects Audubon's
4 expectations that offshore wind development projects
5 include full consultation with tribes, non-governmental
6 agencies, and communities. However, we do believe that
7 there's still a lot more work to be done to implement the
8 strategic plan, particularly around research and
9 monitoring, and incorporating new data and technologies.

10 We are optimistic that by working with others in
11 an inclusive and transparent process, offshore wind can
12 succeed in California, in a manner that meets tribal and
13 local interests and protects birds and the marine
14 environment. Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 Next, we'll hear from Julia DeGraw. Julia, I'm
17 going to open your line. We are asking for comments to be
18 two minutes or less. One moment.

19 MS. DEGRWAW: All right. Thank you. Can you hear
20 me?

21 MS. BADIE: Yes. Yes, we can. Thank you.

22 MS. DEGRWAW: I can't seem to get video, but I'm
23 just going to go ahead. So yes, my name is Julia DeGraw
24 and I'm with the National Wildlife Federation. And I
25 testified at the last business meeting on this topic. So I

1 will keep it short.

2 I do want to start by thanking you for delaying
3 the vote so that stakeholders and advocates and members of
4 the community would have a little bit more time to review
5 the changes made to the plan. I testified last week
6 generally in support of the plan, but asking for that
7 extension. So I really want to extend gratitude to all of
8 you for delaying the vote to today's meeting.

9 (Indiscernible) to engage with NGOs, tribes, and
10 a number of the other stakeholders and interested parties
11 as you move forward with implementation of this plan. That
12 is a process that I think has made this plan as strong as
13 it is and needs to continue throughout the implementation.

14 I also wanted to reiterate our request that you
15 update the plan every three to five years. This will
16 enable you to incorporate the best practices and science
17 and all of the knowledge that is going to be developing in
18 this extremely nascent field and industry. It will also
19 provide the opportunity to make sure that there's a strong
20 commitment to responsible decommissioning before any
21 turbines are put into the ocean.

22 So again, I really appreciate giving folks a
23 little bit more time to review. And we are looking forward
24 to working with you moving forward on the implementation.

25 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

1 Next we'll hear from Fernando Marquez Duarte.
2 I'm going to open your line, Fernando. Please unmute on
3 your end. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or
4 less.

5 MR. DUARTE: Good morning, everyone. Thank you.
6 My name is Fernando Marquez Duarte. I work as a policy
7 researcher for the People's Collective for Environmental
8 Justice, and I'm a member of the Impact Project too, based
9 in the Inland Empire.

10 First I want to thank the California Energy
11 Commission staff for meeting with the Impact Project to
12 address our questions and concerns. But also I wanted to
13 first ask and then recommend, how are you really
14 considering community engagement with environmental justice
15 organizations that are in the communities that suffer the
16 consequences firsthand of the pollution caused by the
17 ports, in the offshore wind plan.

18 And how also are you preventing further negative
19 consequences for the health of the communities surrounding
20 not only the communities literally surrounding the port,
21 but also the communities that are affected by the logistics
22 industrial complex, like the communities in the Inland
23 Empire?

24 And how are you preventing more of green
25 colonialism that tribal nations suffer? That's my comment

1 on my questions and thank you for your time.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we'll hear from Alison Hahm. Alison, I'm
4 going to open your line. We are asking for comments to be
5 two minutes or less.

6 MS. HAHM: Good morning, my name is Alison Hahm,
7 A-L-I-S-O-N H-A-H-M. I'm an attorney with NRDC and a proud
8 member of the Impact Project, which includes community-
9 based organizations, environmental justice groups, academic
10 institutions and national environmental NGOs.

11 NRDC supports the development of offshore wind
12 off the coast of California to meet the state's clean
13 energy and climate goals. NRDC also believes that it's
14 crucial to advance offshore wind in a way that minimizes
15 negative ecological consequences and maximizes benefits to
16 tribal nations and poor communities. Communities that are
17 already disproportionately burdened by industrial
18 operations, and extreme air pollution from track and ship
19 emissions.

20 Offshore wind must be responsibly developed and
21 designed to improve life expectancy in communities living
22 on the frontlines of industrial operations. For this
23 reason, we urge CEC to develop environmental justice
24 forums, in coordination with tribal nations. And schedule
25 regular meetings with EJ leaders, tribes, and frontline

1 residents to develop strong community benefits, advanced
2 port electrification, and promote a rapid phase down of
3 fossil fuel infrastructure to avoid a potential increase in
4 cumulative impacts from offshore wind related construction,
5 maintenance, and operations.

6 Finally, I'd like to thank CEC for delaying the
7 vote last month and meeting with Impact Project coalition
8 members this week to discuss the revised plan. Continuing
9 this open dialogue is vital to ensure offshore wind, the
10 offshore wind industry, is a catalyst for improving quality
11 of life in port-adjacent communities, and truly advancing
12 environmental justice. Thank you.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14 Next we'll hear from Lucia Marquez. Lucia, I'm
15 going to open your line. We're asking for comments to be
16 two minutes or less.

17 MS. MARQUEZ: Good morning, Vice Chair Gunda and
18 Commissioners. My name is Lucia Marquez, the Associate
19 Policy Director with CAUSE. Can you hear me, okay?

20 MS. BADIE: Yes, we can.

21 MS. MARQUEZ: Okay. CAUSE is the Central Coast
22 Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy. We're based in
23 the Central Coast in Ventura and Santa Barbara County.

24 I wanted to extend my appreciation to the
25 decision CEC staff and Commissioners made to meet with

1 stakeholders over the last couple of weeks, including
2 members of the Regenerate Coalition and the Impact Project
3 to discuss their concerns with the revised strategic plan.
4 We really look forward to taking part in deepening the
5 collaboration to develop an environmental justice forum to
6 discuss offshore wind concerns and priorities for poor
7 communities.

8 Something that we consistently heard in
9 conversations was that this is a living document. This is
10 a living plan with expectations that it will continue to be
11 updated. So with that being said, some of the gaps that we
12 see still need to be addressed that we hope will make it
13 into this plan, is related to transmission planning that
14 evaluates reduction and reliance on gas plants.

15 Offshore wind is going to be its strongest in the
16 afternoons and evenings, which we know is the same time we
17 rely on gas plants. So combined with energy storage, it
18 could be the best way to address the state's reliability
19 needs without causing harm and pollution in EJ communities.
20 The plan needs to get really specific with transmission
21 scenarios to make sure that energy is deliverable to areas
22 that rely on gas plants.

23 Because port communities will be on the
24 frontlines of offshore wind development and maintenance, it
25 is critical that the plan ensures that they're engaged and

1 protected. Ports should be electrified through and
2 through. And the best way to do this is through zero
3 emission mandates ensuring the offshore wind projects must
4 require use of 100 percent zero emission vehicles,
5 equipment, infrastructure during project construction,
6 operation and maintenance.

7 Offshore wind projects should invest in charging
8 infrastructure to support zero emission equipment and
9 vehicles. I'll keep it at that since I did comment the
10 last period. I really hope that you consider these
11 recommendations. Thank you.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

13 Next we'll hear from Nancy Rader. Nancy, I'm
14 going to open your line. We are asking for comments to be
15 two minutes or less.

16 MS. RADER: Good morning. This is Nancy Rader,
17 Executive Director of the California Wind Energy
18 Association. I just wanted to cheer you on in adopting
19 this massive informational report today, so that we can all
20 move on to developing a detailed plan for state and federal
21 permitting coordination, and to conducting the many
22 discussions, project analysis and critical agency decisions
23 that lie ahead.

24 Thank you. And once again, CalWEA really
25 appreciates the tremendous amount of hard work that went

1 into this valuable report.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we'll hear from Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez.

4 Nancy, I'm going to open your line. We are asking for
5 comments to be two minutes or less.

6 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Can you hear
7 me?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MS. KIRSHNER-RODRIGUEZ: Great, Nancy Kirschner
10 Rodriguez. I'm the Senior Director for Policy and
11 Outreach. Today I speak on behalf of the Oceanic Network
12 with 500 member businesses and organizations that make up
13 the offshore wind supply chain.

14 As I previously commented on June 26 we thank all
15 the California Energy Commissioners and staff led by
16 Elizabeth Huber and the large interagency group of policy
17 and program experts for the robust engagement in this
18 report.

19 We thank Jana Ganion and the Governor's Office
20 for their ongoing engagement and leadership. And we know
21 that this is an action plan that will evolve as we move
22 offshore wind forward in the Golden State and look forward
23 to building upon and putting the final AB 525 plan into
24 action.

25 Floating offshore wind can and will provide

1 reliable clean energy at the scale needed for California's
2 full clean energy transition. Already your ambitious goal
3 to deploy 25 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2045 has
4 positioned the state as a global leader in this emerging
5 energy sector.

6 But achieving this bold goal requires scaling a
7 new industry quickly. The state has such a critical role
8 to play in developing a viable industry and attracting a
9 robust local supply chain by prioritizing immediate
10 investments, import and transmission infrastructure, by
11 providing a long-term predictable pipeline of projects, and
12 by targeting local supply chain investments that are
13 globally cost competitive.

14 We look forward to having our West Coast supplier
15 council members who are veterans of the nation's early
16 development of offshore wind on the East Coast. And are
17 eager to support California stakeholders as they work to
18 build a viable scalable supply chain needed to achieve the
19 state's great ambitions.

20 Thank you very much and onward and forward.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22 Next we'll hear from Luis Neuner. I'm going to
23 open your line, Luis. We are asking for comments to be two
24 minutes or less.

25 MR. NEUNER: Good morning, Commissioners and

1 staff. My name is Luis Neuner, L-U-I-S N-E-U-N-E-R. I'm a
2 Senior Program Officer for CORE Hub, an affiliate of the
3 Humboldt Area Foundation.

4 First off, I want to thank you all so much for
5 the hard work that has occurred on this report, and for
6 granting a much needed extension that has enabled us to
7 take a more detailed review.

8 Also, with record breaking heat waves throughout
9 the West Coast, and up here in Humboldt County, we want to
10 thank you for doing what you can to keep the power on,
11 especially for folks who require that energy for their
12 livelihoods. As this climate crisis continues to worsen,
13 we are grateful for your efforts to meet critical needs as
14 well as your attempts to mitigate the worst impacts of
15 climate change.

16 As for the report, we are pleased to see some
17 valuable additions. Notably, we're encouraged to see
18 revisions that do more to center tribal sovereignty as a
19 central tenant of the plan. Expanding and building tribal
20 partnerships with communities who hold knowledge,
21 scientific experience, and experience is necessary for any
22 successful project. Because this understanding is so
23 critical we urge the implementation of this report to go
24 beyond its current form to look at ways to incorporate co-
25 leadership opportunities in shared decision making.

1 We're also happy to see some added clarity around
2 the timeline for permitting review, and a more
3 comprehensive coordinated approach. That is a welcomed
4 addition. In the near future we would also encourage
5 clearly defined responsibilities of respective agencies,
6 maybe even a visual of some sort to ensure community
7 engagement is received at an appropriate level.

8 Unfortunately, where we are thankful for the
9 revisions that do more to help lift Benefit Agreements is
10 one of the critical set of tools to secure protections,
11 investments and benefits in the process. Unfortunately,
12 the strategic plan does not include clear guidelines and
13 pathways for these agreements. And we would appreciate
14 more analysis on that.

15 Finally, in the spirit of this being a living
16 document, we hope to work with you in the future to address
17 additional recommendations that were not adopted in the
18 revisions.

19 Thank you again for all your hard work.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

21 Next we'll hear from Tina Calderon.

22 Before I open Tina's line I just wanted to also
23 do a last call. If there's anyone in the room who'd like
24 to make a comment we can take raised hands. And also if
25 you're on Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on the

1 screen, or *9 if you're joining us by phone.

2 And Tina, I'm going to open your line. We are
3 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

4 MS. CALDERON: Good morning, Commissioners. My
5 name is Tina Calderon, T-I-N-A C-A-L-D-E-R-O-N. I work for
6 Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples as the
7 Director of our Ocean Protectors Program. My comment is in
8 support of AB 525 and I appreciate the extra time granted
9 for us to review the final plan.

10 I also want to go on record as stating that even
11 with the thoughtful amendments made as a result of public
12 input, and most especially including California tribal
13 input, SPI as an indigenous-led organization with the
14 Huchnom, Tongva, and Chumash staff members whose
15 traditional homelands include a good portion of the
16 Southern California coastline still have concerns around
17 the potential dangers to our relatives of muwa mot,
18 (phonetic) the ocean.

19 I want to make sure that indigenous voices are
20 heard every step of the way. And that tribal inclusion is
21 centered on the tribes of the area, regardless of federal,
22 state, and/or unrecognized status. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to comment.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

25 And the Public Advisor has received a request to

1 read a letter into the record as a comment. And this
2 letter comes from Keith LeMoine, K-E-I-T-H L-E-M-O-I-N-E.

3 "As an affiliate of the Northern California
4 District Council of Laborers and the Laborers Pacific
5 Southwest Region, we represent our membership in the
6 counties of Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma Lake,
7 Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte. Together with eight
8 affiliated local unions in Northern California we work with
9 our community, community contractors, developers, elected
10 leaders, local, state and federal agencies to ensure
11 working families can earn a livable wage, pension, and
12 health care benefits. While affording our contractor
13 partners access to the safest, most skilled, and trained
14 and qualified workforce.

15 "We strongly support the adoption of the 525
16 strategic plan by the California Energy Commission.
17 Offshore wind is critical as California moves into the
18 future. Offshore wind can help stave off the worst impacts
19 of climate change. Offshore wind can also provide tens of
20 thousands of jobs in California. These jobs can last for
21 years and even decades. Good-paying jobs that help to
22 build clean energy is exactly what we need in California
23 right now.

24 "Our union strongly supports the development of
25 offshore wind off our coast and we encourage the California

1 Energy Commission to adopt this strategic plan. Thank you
2 for your hard work and leadership on this issue.”

3 MS. BADIE: And that comes from the Business
4 Manager and Secretary/Treasurer of Laborers Local 324.

5 And then, I think that is all the hands that
6 we've had for this item. So I'm going to pass it back to
7 you, Chair, Vice Chair, excuse me.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Good. Thank you, Mona.

9 Before we go to the dais for comments --

10 MS. BADIE: I'm sorry, Vice Chair. I did miss
11 one hand if I may?

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Please, go ahead.

13 MS. BADIE: Okay. Pamela Crawford, I'm going to
14 open your line. We are asking for comments to be two
15 minutes or less. You'll have to unmute on your line to
16 begin.

17 MS. CRAWFORD: Hello, hello. I'm not sure if
18 Item Number 4 is the AB 525 reading or?

19 MS. BADIE: Yes, it is.

20 MS. CRAWFORD: Okay. So essentially both Barbara
21 Skinner and I have submitted a very detailed list of why
22 this, not enough studies have been done to properly pass
23 this bill, and illegally not even met the standards of the
24 national EPA inspections. And I hope that people can read.
25 There's so much paper in this bureaucracy, but it looked

1 like we were at the top of the docket in terms of our paper
2 that we submitted for all the reasons that this bill should
3 not be passed.

4 I don't know, I'm sorry. I'm not really prepared
5 to say what needs to be said and Barbara is not here, so I
6 just peeled in to jump on this Zoom. So has anybody read
7 the two letters that we sent at the top of the docket?
8 This is a question. Anyone can answer, I guess or raise
9 their hand? I don't know. Anyway, I'm lowering my hand.

10 It's a danger, both for national security and
11 state security. And both solar and wind, especially these
12 hyper-expensive boondoggle offshore wind turbines that are
13 built and supported by only foreign investors is a gigantic
14 waste of taxpayer money both state and federal, and will
15 not succeed to even come close to even 20 percent of what
16 California needs in the future.

17 Ah, what else? I don't know. I wish I had it in
18 front of me. I wish I hadn't just walked in on this.
19 That's all I have to say for now. Sorry.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comment, Pamela.

21 And that is the final raised hand. So I'll pass
22 it back to you, Vice Chair.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

24 And thank you to all the commenters for taking
25 the time to both be here, but also to join us through Zoom,

1 and to provide comments.

2 Before I go to any additional comments from the
3 dais, I want to call back Elizabeth, to see if you have any
4 responses or reactions to the comments we've heard today.

5 MS. HUBER: Absolutely. Thank you, Vice Chair
6 and Commissioners.

7 I want to begin by saying that when AB 525 was
8 adopted, it identified 12 key factors that we need to
9 consider in developing our planning goals. Number one, and
10 that factor was the work done in SB 100's 2021 joint agency
11 report and the need to diversify our clean and renewable
12 resources to get us to 2045.

13 So this plan is a guideline of exposing as much
14 as we can on what it's going to take again to safely,
15 economically, equitably, and responsibly deploy offshore
16 wind in California, in federal waters. So there are
17 authorities by the by the federal government, which means
18 it's very important that we continue to collaborate and
19 work with them, because those power plants will be floating
20 in federal water. It's the electricity generated that will
21 come into state waters, and then on to state lands. And
22 then our role, you know, becomes very important there.

23 And I want to emphasize that the strategic plan
24 is just the beginning. We know that there's more work,
25 more collaboration, more coordination. And the recent

1 budget bill that was passed by the Legislature and signed
2 by the Governor does direct the Energy Commission to do
3 more work to support the Ocean Protection Council and their
4 environmental studies that we've identified in the report
5 and need to move forward. So that is being addressed.

6 We also need to continue working groups and
7 collaborations with our stakeholders as defined. So I also
8 want to highlight for you on the dais with regards to the
9 commercial shipping comments, you will find within Chapter
10 4 identification of the shipping lanes and the commercial
11 shipping industry impacts, because of vessels that are
12 doing maintenance on the turbines that are floating out in
13 federal waters.

14 In fact, in Chapter 5 then around sea space, we
15 do identify nearly 50 percent of our coastal waters,
16 including the federal waters off the California Coast, are
17 not sufficient for offshore wind, which is why in our first
18 interim report we identified a maximum feasible capacity of
19 28.9 gigawatts, because of the potential impacts to
20 shipping lanes. And that's for both commercial,
21 recreational, and the Department of Navy's activities and
22 US Coast Guard.

23 And we have visuals, tables within Chapter 5, and
24 also discuss the need for more collaboration, more
25 coordination, and more discussion with the federal

1 government and the shipping industry.

2 So I want to close again by emphasizing that
3 they're like us as the state's energy policy and planning
4 agency, with regulatory authority for permitting on power
5 plants on land, 50 megawatts or more.

6 Our partner agencies have currently statutory
7 authority to move forward and permit offshore wind with or
8 without the strategic plan. The strategic plan is the hope
9 that we recognize the individual agencies, authorities and
10 the importance at both the local, federal, and along with
11 our state agency partners, the work that we need to do in a
12 coordinated and collaborative approach. To again, ensure
13 an equitable, safe, responsible and economic deployment of
14 offshore wind.

15 And so with that I'm going to close. I closed
16 last time, personal about my suffering of asthma and the
17 impacts that the environment has had on me. But I'm here
18 today and doing the work that I'm doing along with my
19 colleagues in the STEP Division for my kids. And so with
20 that I want to close by saying happy birthday to my twins,
21 Rachel and Anna. So thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Elizabeth.

23 Before I go to the Commissioners, I just want to
24 go back to the Senior Advisor. And again, if you have any,
25 anything else you want to add.

1 MS. GANION: I just want to make a couple of
2 comments. One is that Melissa Jones, you do not want to
3 get in between her and grammar corrections. And amongst
4 her other amazing talents and expertise, I had no idea she
5 was so good with the grammar.

6 I also want to recognize the Northern California
7 Carpenters Union that took time out of their busy lives and
8 schedules to be here today. Thank you so much for joining
9 us.

10 And lastly, just a enormous amount of thanks to
11 the Commission, and all of the people that worked to bring
12 this plan to fruition. Thanks so much.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much. I have a
14 few comments that I want to add to this.

15 Again, Elizabeth, I want thank you for the
16 wonderful presentation and taking the time and necessary
17 for engaging with our partner agencies and stakeholders in
18 this complex process.

19 As an extension to you also I want to thank the
20 STEP Division and the entire team there. I just want to
21 call out a couple of people I see in the room from STEP.
22 Obviously Melissa, she gave me a hard time on my grammar,
23 so I will recognize Melissa and also Eli Harland here.

24 I also want to uplift the leadership and absolute
25 work of Chair Hochschild does. He's the Lead Commissioner

1 on offshore wind. I just want to thank him for his
2 leadership and deliberative process he set on stage to
3 really have a thoughtful, coordinated process here.

4 I uplift his Chief of Staff, Kat Robinson, who's
5 in the room. And I know the countless hours that Kat has
6 put in behind the scenes to make this happen over the last
7 year especially.

8 I also want to thank our Tribal Advisor here,
9 Sierra Graves. And thank you, Sierra, for your work. Mona
10 Badie, who you hear all through the day. I want to thank
11 you for your work, and many, many others who are recognized
12 in the report but not called out specifically by me today.

13 Like Elizabeth mentioned, our interagency
14 partners on this report were critical in developing it.
15 And I'm really impressed by the coordination developed over
16 the last few years.

17 Again, the start of the meeting I mentioned
18 apologies for the Zoom snafu we had. Again, you know that
19 this is the item that was impacted, so thanks again for
20 everybody's patience.

21 This vote was continued to be responsive to
22 comments for more time and review, which we heard by a
23 number of commentators today. And I'm really grateful that
24 we've taken that extra time and extra engagement to allow
25 for that review to happen of this very, very, very long

1 report. So thank you.

2 In particular I want to thank tribal nations for
3 their consultation on the strategic plan. For those who
4 may not have read the report yet, I encourage you to read
5 the section on Tribal Energy Sovereignty in particular.
6 And along with my colleagues here on the dais, we were up
7 in Humboldt when we signed the Tribal Sovereignty as a part
8 of our work. So I really want to thank and uplift the work
9 that CEC and CPUC has done collectively.

10 Further, I want to thank the many environmental
11 justice groups and community groups who we've also heard
12 from today for having multiple meetings with us, including
13 those involved in the Impact Project. So thank you so
14 much.

15 As mentioned, and called out both by the comments
16 but also our internal agreement, we plan to continue these
17 meetings as we enter the strategic plan implementation
18 period, especially focused on port infrastructure. There
19 was particularly one gentleman who talked about his
20 concerns about his community and health. And it's really
21 important for us to have those engagements as we move
22 forward.

23 I also want to thank the fisheries and labor
24 unions and environmental groups that participated as well.
25 And thank you so much for taking the time to be here, all

1 of you.

2 The build out of offshore wind in California will
3 continue to require input from these groups, so that the
4 infrastructure required can be built in a way that is as
5 beneficial as possible, while protecting the coastal and
6 marine ecosystems, as well as tribal and cultural
7 resources. Offshore wind has the potential to provide a
8 major new source of renewable energy, improve electric
9 reliability, create high quality jobs, and provide other
10 significant statewide economic benefits.

11 Before I go into just acknowledging the tradeoff
12 of infrastructure I just want to have a moment for all of
13 us to really recognize as we move into this energy
14 transition from a fossil faced generation to a clean energy
15 generation, it does not mean that we're not going to create
16 new infrastructure. It's really important to acknowledge
17 that as we build new infrastructure the inequities, as Jana
18 mentioned earlier, are not repeated. And really taken into
19 account to make sure that we truly embrace the idea that
20 the Governor calls for in terms of equity for all groups.

21 This should not be -- infrastructure development
22 should not be us versus them. It should be our
23 infrastructure, and how do we do it in a way we accurately
24 measure the impacts. And be honest about the impacts to
25 measure them and how do we minimize? And then how do we

1 mitigate? And that should be our slogan to ensure that
2 we're doing this together, and not just CEC coming up to
3 things and telling people how things should be.

4 In that regard I just want to acknowledge the
5 incredible work that the staff do every day at CEC to
6 ensure that we develop the public trust required for our
7 future journey. There is nothing more important, nothing
8 that the agencies, public agencies have, if not for the
9 trust of the people. And that trust cannot be created if
10 we are not honest and transparent about both the benefits
11 and impact, and what we are going to do about mitigating
12 those impacts to ensure the majority of the work we do here
13 really takes into account the equity needs for the state.

14 The State Lands Commission is the lead permitting
15 agency for offshore wind. So I would highly encourage
16 those interested to engage in the public forums as well.
17 We'll continue to support engagement there.

18 Lastly, we have received questions on whether
19 offshore wind build out will be tied to bringing coastal
20 gas plants offline. And thanks to Alexis and others who
21 had made those comments today. It's really important for
22 us to consider the importance of creating the conditions
23 necessary for moving away from fossil generation. And
24 that's an important element of SB 100 and we'll continue to
25 work through that forum.

1 And finally, before I pass to my other colleagues
2 here, just again a genuine appreciation for everybody.
3 When we come into these meetings, and I've been in meetings
4 where we have opposition that's 90 percent and support
5 that's 10 percent or 50/50, the comments that we've heard
6 today is a reflection of the incredible work that a number
7 of staff do who are not here in the room. They tirelessly
8 work to be the true spirit of what a public servant means.
9 So I just congratulate the staff for the incredible work
10 and the opportunity to support you all from the dais here.

11 With that, I'll pass it on to Commissioner
12 Monahan.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Excellent comments, so I'm
14 not going to repeat. But I will say just I am the only
15 Commissioner that was actually at the last business meeting
16 and is at this one as well. And I just want to thank
17 everyone who has provided feedback.

18 We did listen to the complaints that the report
19 was published just the night before the business meeting
20 and withheld the decision until this week. And I think we
21 all recognize that we need to give the public time to
22 digest a report of this significance, and the importance of
23 getting you know and the opportunity to review it in full.

24 And we feel the urgency, or at least I do, I feel
25 the urgency to move forward swiftly because the climate

1 crisis is upon us. I mean, we look out at this
2 temperatures that we're facing today. For people who don't
3 have air conditioning, this can be a life or death
4 situation. We're seeing wildfires more intense than we've
5 ever seen before in California. For those of us who have
6 been born and raised here it's really just been shocking to
7 see the transition in my lifetime. And I think you know,
8 before climate was a theoretical risk, and now we're seeing
9 it play out in real time.

10 Offshore wind is a real opportunity for us to
11 move forward with clean energy in a way that engages tribal
12 communities, engages communities that have been
13 disproportionately impacted by air pollution, engages the
14 workforce labor, engages environmental interests in a
15 transparent and honest process. And I think we all feel
16 deeply that for tribes in particular, there's a long
17 history of being disregarded. There's a long history of
18 their lands being taken and abused. And I think this plan
19 really modeled something different. So I want to give
20 Sierra Graves and her work that she's done to engage tribes
21 a lot of credit here.

22 Jana Ganion, the Senior Advisor on Offshore Wind
23 to the Governor also brings a lot of just, I would say,
24 integrity to this engagement, and it needs to continue. We
25 need to continue to engage tribes. We need to continue to

1 engage communities. We need to continue to engage labor,
2 all the stakeholders in a transparent and open process.
3 And the report models this.

4 So just a big shout out to the team led by
5 Elizabeth Huber for developing a plan that is quite
6 transparent about the obstacles and challenges. And also
7 identify some strategies for mitigation. This is a
8 starting point.

9 This needs to be a living document. I said it
10 last time, and I'll say it again, we're going to learn a
11 lot about offshore wind. There's a lot of uncertainties on
12 the environmental impacts. And we need to be clear eyed,
13 and engage the right scientific interests to make sure that
14 we are carefully moving forward, attentive to reducing the
15 environmental impacts as much as we can.

16 So I just want to say this has been a really
17 helpful process to hear all the comments and all the
18 engagement that communities and stakeholders have. The
19 team has listened. We have listened. We need to move
20 forward, and move forward with offshore wind in a way that
21 continues to engage stakeholders in a meaningful way.

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Monahan.

24 Commissioner Gallardo.

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right. I'll just

1 start by saying I want to ditto the expressions of
2 gratitude that both Commissioner Monahan and Vice Chair
3 Gunda gave to everyone involved. And I also want to
4 highlight Vice Chair Gunda's leadership in this big effort,
5 because it is the Chair as Lead Commissioner and Vice Chair
6 Gunda is the Associate Commissioner, who are doing this big
7 lift with everyone included here. And offshore wind is one
8 of our major policy priority areas and so I want to thank
9 you for all you do.

10 And I also want to give a big thank you for the
11 Commissioners that were here for the last meeting and did
12 agree to do a delay. As we've heard, that made a major
13 difference.

14 At the same time, I do want to acknowledge a
15 comment made by Chairwoman Mona Tucker of the Northern
16 Chumash tribe, about the fact that for some entities, even
17 that two-week delay was not enough. Because there are
18 entities who do not have the types of resources that can
19 enable them to go through such as substantive long
20 documents, even with that amount of time. So I want to
21 acknowledge that and want to make a commitment that we are
22 going to do better on getting those documents out to leave
23 enough time for folks, no matter how well resourced or
24 under resourced they are, to be able to go through them and
25 be able to give us the invaluable input that we want to

1 receive here.

2 I do have a few questions. Elizabeth, I'm going
3 to ask you to come back up. I just want to get a little
4 bit more clarification on a few items that were raised
5 during public comment.

6 So first, I know you did mention the chapter
7 related to shipping in the assessment. I'm curious if you
8 could talk a little bit about what the engagement with the
9 commercial shipping industry has been so far and what you
10 envision moving forward, if anything?

11 MS. HUBER: Oh, absolutely. Again, once this
12 plan is adopted we will continue to work whether it's
13 mandated in statute or not. And hopefully you direct us to
14 continue to do that engagement as a planning and policy
15 agency on energy.

16 So there have been multiple public processes
17 where we've had workshops, where we've had informational
18 meetings, where we've had topics specific. And all were
19 invited, these are noticed. These were notices that were
20 published and an outreach was given. We've had one-on-one
21 conversations.

22 So we are, you know, well aware of that the
23 shipping industry had hoped to have their own individual
24 working group. And again as no excuses, but when you're
25 moving staff who are hired to do one job to come and

1 support this work based on the resources given to us, we
2 had to have working groups with the public that brought in
3 entities from all over. And so unless it was mandated, it
4 was more joint type working groups and outreach and
5 conversations.

6 But I also want to say that we don't say this
7 enough, and we're learning it in all the work that we're
8 doing. As you know, Commissioner Gallardo, with our AB 525
9 opt in, we have multiple, I mean, hundreds of thousands of
10 conversations by phone call, by teams, by Zooms as
11 requested. And this group of eight individuals and nine
12 with Sierra's help in the Public Advisors Office, and along
13 with our partner agencies ,if anyone requested some
14 facetime with staff we made that time to them. And took
15 everything that they had to say seriously.

16 It's why the strategic plan was posted in
17 January. And it's been out for more than six months. And
18 what's been added is about 10 to 15 pages addressing those
19 comments. We've added visuals, as I indicated, with the
20 shipping lanes, with permitting timelines, with specific
21 dates. But we did something unprecedented in this document
22 that I have never seen before. And that is we highlighted
23 every comment. We summarized them. And we put them in the
24 chapters. We at the end of each chapter, Chapter 4, it
25 addresses multiple impacts in different industries and

1 individuals and tribal governments. And we summarized
2 their comments in each of the sections in Chapter 4 and
3 that's never been done before.

4 We may not have addressed all those comments.
5 But again, this is a beginning, not an ending. And we
6 wanted to ensure their comments were captured in that
7 strategic plan. And we recognize with the shipping
8 industry that there's needs to be more conversations,
9 because their work is in federal waters. And if we as the
10 CEC can continue to broker those meetings with the federal
11 government or local governments we're committed to do that.

12 I hope that answered your question, Commissioner.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes, absolutely. Thank
14 you. And I have a couple more. There was also a mention
15 of transmission planning scenarios, maybe a lack thereof.
16 Could you speak to that at all?

17 MS. HUBER: That's a very good question. So
18 there, as you know, as state agencies we all have our
19 statutory requirements and direction. So we actually early
20 on in the process, I want to say in May of 2022,
21 coordinated a working group actually led by Melissa Jones
22 and Jim Bartridge with our partners at CAISO and the CPUC.
23 And this looked around at the transmission infrastructure,
24 and it also included studies. So we had particularly in
25 the North Coast. And where we also engaged with subject

1 matter experts through contract work with the Schatz
2 Renewable Energy Center at Cal Poly Humboldt and as well as
3 at the federal level with NREL.

4 And with that we have conducted two separate
5 studies on transmission deployment of offshore wind and how
6 it can get connected to the grid through transmission
7 corridors' distribution lines. And also we're doing a
8 study with battery energy storage on the ability to do long
9 duration energy storage as the energy comes onshore after
10 being developed. So that continues.

11 And then there's also a separate process that we
12 also added into the final version of those 10 to 15
13 accumulative pages around the CPUC leadership on central
14 procurement for offshore wind with long lead time energy
15 resources, and offshore wind is identified as one of those.
16 And there's a whole separate public rulemaking process
17 that's ongoing right now.

18 And then, of course, we have been involved with
19 the transmission planning process through our work in SB
20 100, in support of the CPUC's integrated resource plans, as
21 well as in the transmission planning process at CAISO.

22 So these are ongoing, very coordinated working
23 groups that have knowledge and all of these different
24 processes that are simultaneously going on right now.

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Elizabeth.

1 I just attended a workshop yesterday, led by the
2 Public Utilities Commission that addressed rights of way
3 and impacts with transmission. And so it's top of mind for
4 me right now. So I appreciate you making those
5 clarifications and talking about those efforts.

6 And then lastly someone, well several people
7 actually, talked about the impacts on port communities.
8 And as we all know, any and every project will have some
9 effect in the area where it's going to be located, right,
10 whether it's a small project or a large project. And so
11 I'm curious about those impacts on the port communities and
12 the frontline residents, like those described by I believe
13 it was Theral Golden earlier regarding the Port of Long
14 Beach, cities like Wilmington, who are already suffering a
15 lot of harm from pollution.

16 Is there anything else you think we can do
17 specific to port communities? And I'm already thinking
18 like, is it possible for us to do a town hall type of forum
19 where we can focus on education, both education for the
20 community about what offshore wind is, what the potential
21 effects are? And also education for us on what the
22 concerns, priorities, desires, needs, etc., are of those
23 communities? So I'm curious about that, whether it's
24 townhall forum or something else. I'm curious if you can
25 speak to that a little bit.

1 MS. HUBER: Absolutely, Commissioner, and I
2 appreciate the question. Because one of the mandates that
3 we're going to start moving forward on is on Assembly Bill
4 3, the Zbur bill. And there's two distinct reports that we
5 have to do, and one is on expanding on port readiness. So
6 it's taking the next step.

7 We do have on our website all our AB 525 reports.
8 The State Lands Commission did a port readiness report. We
9 also contracted out a port readiness report. So this next
10 report is going to take it to that next step to support our
11 energy goals around decarbonization. But also the
12 sensitivity to what it's going to take to retrofit,
13 enhance, and expand those ports.

14 And so absolutely, we are looking at setting up
15 workshops, doing town hall meetings. I believe -- and I
16 don't want to put your colleague on the spot -- but we've
17 been working very closely with our Lead Commissioner over
18 ports, Commissioner Monahan here. And she's given us space
19 to present. We've presented at the Port of Long Beach.
20 We've presented up at the Port of Humboldt. We've been in
21 San Francisco, and I do believe we will be down in San
22 Diego in a couple of months.

23 So wherever we have opportunities to educate on
24 what impacts and how they can be mitigated, or addressed at
25 the ports and to those frontline communities, that is our

1 goal to get out there. And so we appreciate your
2 leadership and the opportunity to have that exposure in
3 these various public events.

4 Does that answer your question?

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes, for the most part.
6 And I'm curious too, so the port readiness report I wasn't
7 aware of. So that's fantastic. I'm curious if it's going
8 to include engagement with environmental justice
9 communities, you know, and advocates folks, residents.

10 MS. HUBER: Absolutely. And I would like to
11 highlight we hear all the time that we were only directed
12 by the Legislature to do A, B and C and this recognizes
13 that. But under your leadership and under the Chair's
14 leadership, and the commitment that we have done through
15 the Tribal Energy Sovereignty Agreement, our commitments
16 through the DACAG and other work that we're doing, we
17 agreed.

18 And we had the blessing of Secretary Wade
19 Crowfoot, so many thanks to him and his team, that we
20 needed to include these frontline and underserved
21 communities, and the impacts to them within this report.
22 And so we do recognize it. And we do recognize we have to
23 also include that in our AB 3 report that we'll be doing
24 over the next 18 months. So it will definitely be
25 included. And including that engagement and listening and,

1 you know, being available to go to those communities and
2 have those conversations.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Excellent. Thank you so
4 much, Elizabeth. I really appreciate you and your team for
5 all the hard work. I know this is a major lift, so thank
6 you.

7 And then finally, I wanted to acknowledge I may
8 have made a mistake on the name of a tribe that I
9 acknowledged earlier. So if I did make a mistake, I
10 apologize to Chair Tucker, and then if anyone wants to
11 correct me on that feel free for the record. Otherwise, I
12 can reach out directly to the Chair and let them know.

13 MS. GRAVES: Thank you, Commissioner Gallardo.
14 We just wanted to correct that Chair Tucker is with ytt, so
15 thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Got it, thank you, Sierra.
17 Thank you, Commissioner Gallardo. Thank you, Commissioner
18 Monahan, for the excellent comments.

19 I think before we start the vote, you know just
20 again, Elizabeth thank you for all your work. I know you
21 would move the item is given a chance, given the two-and-a-
22 half years of work you've done on this. But before we open
23 up the voting process I just want to also recognize the
24 long-standing leadership in former Commissioners, Karen
25 Douglas and Courtney Vaccaro who have also spent time on

1 offshore wind work.

2 So with all the excellent comments and thoughtful
3 process today, I think we're ready to move. Jana, did you
4 want to add something?

5 MS. GANION: No.

6 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I want to say thanks again for
7 Jana to be here.

8 So with that, you know wants to move the item.
9 Commissioner Monahan?

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

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay, we would like to take
15 the vote now.

16 Commissioner Monahan.

17 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

18 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I vote aye as well. And the
21 item passes 3-0. Thank you so much for everybody who's
22 taken the time to be here, and to celebrate a good
23 milestone. Thanks, Elizabeth, for all the work. Thank
24 you.

25 With that, let's move to the next item. Item

1 Number 5, Informational Item from Department of Water
2 Resources DWR to Provide an Update on Strategic Reliability
3 Reserve Investments. Welcome Delphine Hou from DWR to
4 present.

5 MS. HOU: Thank you so much. Good morning, Vice
6 Chair Commissioners, Senior Advisor, my name is Delphine
7 Hou. I'm the Deputy Director of the Statewide Energy
8 Office with the Department of Water Resources. So thank
9 you for having me today to present our Strategic
10 Reliability Reserves Investments. Next slide, please. One
11 more slide, please. Great, thank you.

12 As part of Assembly Bill 205, which created the
13 state's Strategic Reliability Reserve there are three parts
14 of the Reserve, one of which is overseen or two of which is
15 overseen by the California Energy Commission focused on
16 demand response and distributed resources. Whereas DWR's
17 portion is focused on grid connected resources.

18 The Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability
19 Reserve Program -- kind of a mouthful or ESSRRP -- acts as
20 an insurance policy and safeguards the statewide electric
21 grid during extreme and combined events such as heat waves,
22 wildfires, droughts, and other impacts driven by climate
23 change. More on that later.

24 The program also supports California's transition
25 to a clean energy future. Next slide, please.

1 Per Assembly Bill 205, DWR is required to provide
2 regular updates at the Energy Commission business meetings
3 for investments made and under consideration. Moreover,
4 the legislation requires the attendance of the Public
5 Utilities Commission and California Independent System
6 Operator. And I believe a representative from each entity
7 is in attendance here today virtually on Zoom.

8 Today's the eighth update, and we expect to
9 provide the next update in the fourth quarter of 2024.
10 Next slide, please.

11 Once again, there are five eligible types of
12 projects on the program. First is an extension of the
13 operating life of existing generating research facilities
14 that are planned for retirement.

15 The second are new, temporary power generators of
16 5 megawatts or more.

17 The third is generation facilities using clean
18 zero emissions fuel technology of any size.

19 The fourth is new energy storage systems of 20
20 megawatts or more.

21 And the fifth is to reimburse electrical
22 corporations for the value of imports that were procured
23 above -- sorry, for the reimbursement of above market costs
24 of imports that were procured in excess of authorizations
25 and requirements. So next slide, please.

1 So of the five here is a layout of the ESSRRP
2 investments. This is pretty much the same slide that I
3 presented last time, so no major changes. Nothing has
4 changed from the 2022 column.

5 Just to review 2023, last year we had 147.5
6 megawatts of emergency and temporary gas fired resources,
7 and firm energy import contracts of roughly 3,500
8 megawatts. That program has expired for the energy imports
9 and so that ended October 31st, 2023 as well as for our
10 temporary diesel generator program. We closed that out
11 early and did not have any of those assets in 2023.

12 Moving on to the 2024 column we expect up to 291
13 megawatts of temporary natural gas fired generators. And
14 that is we're very close to the mark on that one. As well
15 as what's new for this year in 2024, for our three once-
16 through cooling generators, as I've reported on in prior
17 meetings. And those are the once-through cooling
18 generators: Alamitos, Huntington Beach, and Ormond Beach
19 generating stations. And they have officially become part
20 of the reserve on January 1, 2024. Our contract's with
21 them or until December 31, 2026.

22 And as I've discussed in prior presentations, the
23 units are default off rather than available 24 hours a day,
24 7 days a week as they would have been in the Resource
25 Adequacy Program.

1 And looking around DWR currently does not have
2 any new resources under consideration. We, like the rest
3 of the industry, have found it difficult to move forward
4 with projects due to increased costs, lack of
5 interconnection, and very high demand for non-emitting
6 technologies such as battery storage. And it's important
7 per our legislation that DWR prioritizes investments that
8 do not compete with facilities already planned for by load
9 serving entities and public entities.

10 I want to acknowledge the considerable
11 coordination that we've had with the Energy Commission, the
12 Public Utilities Commission, and the California Independent
13 System Operator in developing and maintaining the state's
14 Strategic Reliability Reserve.

15 Before I end, I do want to make a note of some of
16 the events that have been occurring. As we all know we are
17 in the middle of a very prolonged and aggressive heatwave
18 that moved into the state beginning last week. It affected
19 primarily Northern California and the interior of the
20 state, and pushed electricity demand up in these areas as
21 we've all seen.

22 As early as July 1, Governor Newsom and the state
23 began preparing for this heatwave, urging Californians to
24 take precautions. And as we've seen record setting
25 temperatures of 119 in Redding, 111 in Stockton, and 112 in

1 Fresno and Merced. So it's been very aggressive and
2 nearing two weeks of this straight on.

3 Along with the hot weather, several wildfires
4 have been threatening electric generation and transmission
5 infrastructure. Talking from a little bit of DWR's own
6 experience, we were very much impacted by the Thompson
7 fire. We saw the evacuation of 29,000 people from the City
8 of Oroville and surrounding areas, but it also impacted the
9 State Water Project's Oroville Complex. We had to evacuate
10 our staff and cease operations. That removed ultimately
11 800 megawatts of generation from the grid. Luckily, the
12 winds died down and operation was restored July 3rd at the
13 State Water Project and residents were able to return to
14 Oroville, so we're very thankful for all of that.

15 However, through the remainder of the week and
16 into this week, CAISO has issued a local Transmission
17 Emergency for the area that's impacted by the Thompson fire
18 and the persistent high heat that we see to this day. This
19 local Transmission Emergency would allow then CAISO access
20 to one of DWR's assets in the ESSRRP. And it's being used
21 to address the local energy needs.

22 And as CAISO monitors the progression of this
23 heatwave, and its various impacts across the state, DWR's
24 asset portfolio is ready and available to respond.

25 And if the dais will allow it, I do want to maybe

1 give the CAISO an opportunity to weigh in on the current
2 system conditions, because this heatwave continues, and it
3 continues to be fairly aggressive. And I think there's
4 even more outside of California that is pretty pressing.

5 So if the dais will allow it, I think our CAISO
6 representative, Cristy Sanada, may be able to weigh in some
7 more on that.

8 MS. SANADA: Great, so I just want to make sure
9 you all can hear me, but I can definitely give a good
10 update.

11 So at CAISO, we do continue to closely monitor
12 the hot weather and the wildfire activity across the state.
13 The grid has remained stable. We have been able to meet
14 our demand since the start of this heat event.

15 As the past week has progressed CAISO has taken
16 measures in our operational playbook to support grid
17 reliability. These measures include issuing a what we call
18 Restricted Maintenance Operations Notice and that persists
19 between July 3rd And July 11th. These notices encourage
20 generation and transmission owners to avoid taking actions
21 that may reduce generator or transmission availability.
22 And that ultimately helps to maximize the availability of
23 these assets.

24 We also, as Delphine mentioned, issued what we
25 call a Transmission Emergency starting last week, which

1 concludes July 11. And that is to help mitigate the risks
2 associated with wildfire restoration efforts and persistent
3 high temperatures and electric demands in certain areas.

4 We also continue to coordinate with our
5 neighboring balancing authority areas in light of what
6 we're seeing is west wide heat and high electric demands
7 this week. And we also remain in close coordination with
8 state entities and with utilities to be ready to mobilize
9 various demand response and load shifting programs.

10 So some recent developments from this week, and
11 you may have seen some communications come out from the
12 CAISO. But the continued high heat experienced across the
13 state does persist into this week, with temperatures also
14 climbing in neighboring balancing areas through the West.
15 So in light of evolving conditions, the CAISO has issued a
16 Heat Bulletin this morning. And that is appraising the
17 public of the continued high heat conditions that we're
18 observing across the state and the broader West.

19 We are seeing temperatures in California climb up
20 again after we had a very slight and brief reprieve with
21 the hottest day forecast for tomorrow. But our forecast
22 ultimately does continue to indicate sustained well above
23 average temperatures in California as well as other areas
24 of the West, particularly the central and desert Southwest
25 regions.

1 I mentioned we are also monitoring ongoing
2 wildfires that are active in many areas of the state, which
3 could pose a threat to generators and transmission lines.
4 We note that high temperatures and elevated electric
5 demands as well as some of the wildfire risks have already
6 required a lot of the CAISO generation fleet to run at high
7 rates of output for several days on end, during this
8 extreme heat. And these heat events that can last for
9 several consecutive days can stress the generators that are
10 running at those high output levels for long periods, which
11 does increase the risk of outages and D rates, (phonetic)
12 potentially tightening electric supply margins.

13 So in light of persisting and evolving grid
14 conditions, the CAISO is continuing to remain vigilant.
15 I'll reiterate that the grid is currently stable, but we
16 are closely monitoring grid conditions in California and
17 conditions across the West.

18 We also continue our coordination with state
19 agencies, utilities, and others to be better ready to
20 mobilize programs that can provide additional grid relief
21 including the state's Strategic Reliability Reserve and
22 various demand response programs.

23 MS. HOU: Thank you, Cristy.

24 And that concludes my presentation.

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much, Delphine.

1 I know it's an informational item, so we do not
2 have public comment. I do just want to share a couple of
3 parts.

4 First I want to acknowledge that as a part of
5 this briefing we typically have a representative from CPUC
6 and CAISO. Thanks to Leuwam Tesfai, the Deputy Executive
7 Director for Energy and Climate. She's online today with
8 us and thanks as well for taking the time. And also Cristy
9 Sanada from CAISO who just presented on the ongoing
10 conditions.

11 And I'm wanting to give a shoutout to CAISO
12 colleagues. I think, you know, we pay attention to CAISO
13 colleagues when things are going wrong. But when things
14 are really hard and are being dealt with in the background
15 oftentimes, we don't think about CAISO. So Cristy, to you
16 and all the wonderful colleagues at CAISO who have been
17 working really hard the last 10 days now to keep the grid
18 stable, and protected, and resilient and for all the
19 coordination. Thanks, Cristy, to you and all the CAISO
20 colleagues.

21 I also want to thank Delphine and the DWR team,
22 as always. Again, a lot of work is done by DWR in
23 coordination with the other agencies, just for your
24 leadership, Delphine, and for your staff. We have been
25 really working hard to create a reliable strategic reserve

1 on an ongoing basis.

2 One of the reasons why we have not had any alerts
3 over the last week or so is really a testament for the last
4 four years' worth of work, including PUC's incredible
5 leadership on both reforming the Resource Adequacy Program,
6 continuing to evolve the Resource Adequacy Program, but
7 also the tremendous amount of procurement that has been
8 done.

9 Also, a lot of work has been done behind the
10 scenes and forums to ensure that the development of the
11 resources is going at pace. So again, thanks to CAISO and
12 all the state agencies who are a part of that process.

13 Finally, I also want to touch on the
14 contingency's resources. We've talked about ESSRRP is one
15 of them that Delphine just talked about. But as a part of
16 the reliability planning, we have a whole slew of measures
17 that we've come up with to precisely tackle a week such as
18 this. And thankful to the other agencies to really being
19 able to mobilize and keep ready all the resources for the
20 rest of this week.

21 An important part of the coordination is to
22 really have a forum for us internally to take advantage of
23 information on a regular basis and coordinate amongst
24 ourselves to keep the grid stable.

25 Another element that I wanted to just highlight

1 here is the work that Cal OES does. You know, Cal OES has
2 a broad portfolio of work. Again, the tremendous work that
3 personnel from Cal OES do during times like this tackling
4 with heat, fire, as well as grid reliability and all the
5 firefighters out there, putting their lives online to keep
6 us safe.

7 So with all that, you know, I thank you again,
8 for your work. Tremendous work, Delphine, and all the CPUC
9 CEC, CARB and CAISO colleagues who work collaboratively on
10 this. And the GO leadership in making energy reliability a
11 priority.

12 With that, I want to see if anybody else from the
13 dais has any questions or comments. Commissioner?

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Well, I'm just curious if
15 Director Tesfai, if you wanted to make any comments. I
16 know you're online. No pressure either.

17 MS. TESFAI: Thank you, Commissioner. I don't
18 have any questions. I did have a few comments, and I'm
19 happy to speak now if that's best.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, great.

21 MS. TESFAI: So yes, good morning. And thank you
22 for having me today. Again, I'm Leuwam Tesfai, Deputy
23 Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy at the
24 California Utilities Commission. And I am appearing here
25 today, on behalf of our President Alice Reynolds.

1 You know, I first want to start by thanking
2 Director Hou for the excellent update in her presentation,
3 and her leadership to prepare our state for our summer
4 reliability. I really appreciated the almost daily
5 coordination between our agencies, the Department Of Water
6 Resources, but also the California Energy Commission, and
7 the California Independent System Operator over the last
8 several months, and our continued coordination and
9 commitment.

10 Additionally, the California Public Utilities
11 Commission staff have been working to ensure additional
12 resources for contingencies like our Emergency Load
13 Reduction Program, are prepared and available for use, if
14 needed this summer. As well as the Flex Alert Program,
15 which really enhances our communications to all
16 Californians when there is a need to adjust how we use our
17 electricity to maintain grid reliability.

18 The last 10 days we have seen several heavy
19 challenges, and I can confirm those on our end. And our
20 team continues to work to bring every last resource online
21 throughout this year, but especially for this summer. And
22 we continue to do that on a weekly basis, whatever that
23 takes for coordinating with extra syncing, pause (phonetic)
24 opportunities, and being able to leverage resources during
25 those initial times as the project is getting online.

1 We've also had been working with the investor
2 owned utilities to do additional daily imports, as needed
3 during the heatwave. And then, of course, confirming our
4 customer protections to ensure that customers don't get
5 disconnected during the heat wave. And making sure that
6 our utilities are following all of those customer
7 protections to support our most vulnerable customers in the
8 state.

9 So with that, I would also like to close by
10 thanking Director Sanada for the additional information and
11 update that she was able to provide today. And just further
12 confirming CPUC's commitment to coordinating with everyone.
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Director
15 Tesfai.

16 I also wanted to make a comment that I am really
17 grateful to the big team working on all of this. It takes
18 a lot of collaboration, really grateful. And also am proud
19 that we have a team that's so dedicated to keeping the
20 lights on and keeping us safe. And I appreciate the
21 acknowledgement of the firefighters as well, putting their
22 lives on the line to ensure that Californians can stay
23 safe.

24 Also, I wanted to note that in the Zoom chat, we
25 have a reminder to stay safe during the heatwave. And if

1 you want to learn more, to go to the website
2 heatreadycalifornia.com That's heatreadyca all one word
3 .com. And thank you to Senior Advisor Ganion for reminding
4 us of that resource that we have available. So again, if
5 folks want more information, please go there. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, first, I just want
7 to say congratulations to you, and to Vice Chair Gunda, and
8 to Deputy Executive Director Tesfai and CAISO's Cristy
9 Sanada, and just the teams that have been working to ensure
10 that we have a reliable energy system. I mean, it's really
11 been transformational in the last several years. And you
12 guys have just been working so hard, so collaboratively,
13 and really head down, making sure that the lights can stay
14 on. So I just want to give my heartfelt appreciation for
15 all the work that you have done. And just to see what a
16 different place we are in, in just a few years because of
17 that hard work is just really heartening. So thank you.

18 And Delphine, you mentioned the once-through
19 cooling plants. I'm assuming they have not yet been used.
20 But have they been used in this heat crisis yet?

21 MS. HOU: So they're part of the portfolio. And
22 you know, like, as Director Sanada mentioned those are all
23 the tools in the toolkit. So we're waiting to see what the
24 conditions may be. We've been able to hold out fairly well
25 over the last couple of days. But as I said it's the tail

1 end of a very long and exhausting heatwave. And as
2 Director Sanada mentioned that, you know, we're seeing a
3 lot of stress on grid conditions for both the transmission
4 and the generation fleet as well. So the CAISO Operator,
5 the Grid Operator will ultimately make that decision. But
6 you know, the tools are there.

7 And as Director Tesfai mentioned, all of the
8 additional resources that the CPUC has been pushing into
9 the system and all of the demand response that is under the
10 CEC's purview as well, and the Strategic Reserve, those are
11 all kind of ready and available to provide. So we want to
12 think of it as all the tools in the toolkit available in
13 case we do need to go down that road.

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Monahan.

17 I think the DSGS program with the virtual power
18 plants has been triggered yesterday, which is great. So we
19 are able to use some of them and I think as Cristy
20 mentioned, all resources are being readied for a potential
21 need.

22 So thanks again, Cristy so much and Leuwam. And I
23 just want to, before we close this item, acknowledge Chair
24 Hochschild again who works on this area, but also President
25 Mainzer, and President Reynolds, as well as Commissioner

1 Reynolds from PUC and Mark Rothleder, as well from CAISO.

2 So a lot of people who work on this, you know,
3 few of us get to be the face of it. But really, we reflect
4 a lot of hard work behind the scenes. So thank you,
5 Delphine, and we look forward to meeting you in a quarter.
6 Thanks.

7 MS. HOU: Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: With that, I know Item 6 has
9 been removed from the agenda. So we're going to move to
10 Item 7, Emergency Rulemaking Implementing SB X1-2 Merchant
11 Terminal Position Holder Reporting Requirements. And
12 welcome Jeremy Smith to present. Thank you.

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Good afternoon, Vice
14 Chair and Commissioners. I'm Jeremy Smith, a Deputy
15 Director in the Energy Assessments Division. I am
16 presenting, for your consideration and approval, the
17 Revised Merchant Terminal Position Holder Reporting
18 Requirements developed under the SB X1-2 emergency
19 rulemaking. Next slide, please.

20 As a response to gasoline price spikes in
21 California in 2022, Senate Bill X1-2 was enacted last year
22 to understand the underlying causes of price spikes and
23 design policies to prevent these events from repeating.
24 The Legislature provided the CEC with emergency rulemaking
25 authority, which enables an expedited process by which data

1 reporting requirements can be enhanced to ensure we receive
2 the information necessary to fulfill our responsibilities
3 called for in the bill.

4 The revised reporting requirements presented for
5 you today, if adopted, will provide greater transparency
6 into the California gasoline inventory holdings and
7 understandings of transportation fuels spot market
8 dynamics. Gather data to better analyze market behavior
9 and investigate anomalies. And provide the facts necessary
10 to inform policy decisions to mitigate gasoline price
11 spikes and protect consumers. Next slide, please.

12 Allow me to provide a little background on
13 merchant terminals and why these data regulations are
14 important. This graphic shows the path crude oil takes
15 from left to right, as it is processed by refineries into
16 gasoline and stored in large tanks before being delivered
17 via pipeline to terminals, loaded onto tanker trucks, and
18 delivered to gas stations.

19 Much of California's finished gasoline is stored
20 in merchant terminal tanks highlighted in the yellow box.
21 Capacity of these tanks is leased to individual position
22 holders who own fuel that is ready to distribute throughout
23 the state via pipeline. Currently, the CEC does not have
24 visibility into the gasoline volumes held by each lessee.
25 Next slide.

1 Gasoline inventories play a major role in the
2 spot market, which is a high-volume physical trade market
3 located at pipeline hubs. Market participants buy fuel
4 when they don't have enough to meet their contractual
5 obligations, or sell when they have a surplus. Spot trades
6 are supported by a physical volume of fuel owned by the
7 seller.

8 Spot trades have a significant impact on retail
9 prices, which is illustrated in the graph on the right.
10 The red line shows the California average retail price of
11 gasoline in 2022 and 2023, while the blue line shows the
12 spot market price over the same period.

13 The two yellow boxes highlight price spikes
14 occurring in late summer during both years. It can be
15 observed that when the spot price spikes, which occurs when
16 traders bid up the price of gasoline in the spot market,
17 the retail price spikes soon after. Understanding the
18 individual holdings of fuel allows for a better assessment
19 of trading activity that may lead to price spikes. Next
20 slide, please.

21 While total gasoline inventory levels explain
22 much of the variability in the spot price, aggregate
23 volumes don't explain all price spikes.

24 The graph on the right shows as the average
25 weekly gasoline inventories drop, going right to left, the

1 average spot price goes up. In general, this is basic
2 supply and demand fundamentals. However, prices spiked in
3 September 2023, circled in red, even though inventory
4 volumes did not drop as low as what was observed with
5 previous price spikes. If the spot price bids up, even
6 though statewide gasoline stocks are still moderately high
7 this implies that "who" has the fuel is also an important
8 factor. Next slide, please.

9 The Revised Merchant Terminal Position Holder
10 Reporting Requirements enhance existing data collection
11 efforts. The CEC currently collects weekly and monthly
12 aggregate inventories from merchant terminal operators. We
13 believe these terminal operators have data on inventories
14 for each position holder that they lease this capacity to,
15 but the CEC does not currently collect that.

16 These data regulations would allow for the
17 collection of this data, increasing visibility into the
18 factors that cause price spikes by improving tracking of
19 merchant terminal inventories, providing physical holdings
20 of each market participant, and providing more timely
21 details on storage capacities. Next slide.

22 Here are the next steps. If approved, the
23 package will be submitted to the Office of Administrative
24 Law for review tomorrow. For those wanting to submit
25 comments to the docket, I would like to direct their

1 attention to the Notice of Proposed Emergency Action for
2 guidance, because there are specific instructions. The
3 docket is 23-OIR-03.

4 SBX1-2 requires the Office of Administrative Law
5 to review these regulations as an emergency, which means
6 that OAL has 10 days to review after receiving them. OAL
7 and the CEC will accept public comment for the first 5 days
8 of that 10-day period. Based on this timeline, we expect
9 the regulations will take effect on July 22nd.

10 Staff have determined these data regulations are
11 exempt from CEQA and recommend that you approve the
12 merchant terminal position holder reporting requirements.

13 That concludes my presentation. Chad Oliver,
14 from our Chief Counsel's Office, and I are available to
15 respond to your questions. Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Jeremy, as usual
17 for the excellent presentation. With that, we'll move to
18 public comment.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission now
20 welcomes public comment on Item 7 on the agenda today. If
21 you're in the room with us, we'll take a raised hand or
22 using the QR code. And if you're joining on Zoom, please
23 use the raise hand feature on your screen, or *9 if you are
24 joining by phone to let us know you'd like to comment.

25 And I'm just giving that a moment here. All

1 right. We do not have any raised hands to comment on Item
2 7. So back to you, Vice Chair.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: You thank you so much, Mona.

4 I just wanted to see if Chad, did you have
5 anything that you want to add?

6 MR. OLIVER: No.

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. I just want to say
8 congratulations, and welcome back. Thank you.

9 So thanks, Jeremy, again for the wonderful
10 presentation and to the entire SB X1-2 team. I want to say
11 thanks to Aria Berliner from our office who has been
12 supporting this item. Thanks, Aria, to you. And I see
13 Aleecia in the room as well. Aleecia, thank you for your
14 work.

15 I'll just kind of share a couple of insights from
16 earlier this year. We had two oversight hearings at the
17 Legislature getting a status on SB X1-2. And one of the
18 things that made me incredibly proud of our team was when
19 the Legislature commented that they essentially did not
20 expect this much progress to be made in less than a year.
21 And much is, you know, thanks to the incredible work of the
22 team here in really improving the transparency of the
23 petroleum issue and the gas prices issue.

24 A year ago, we went in front of the Legislature
25 with questions that were asked about what was going on with

1 the gas prices, and we had literally no answer. And I
2 think the more and more information we have, we are able to
3 at least shed the light on what the issue is so we can
4 mitigate it through policy and other choices.

5 So I'm just grateful for the work and look
6 forward to supporting it and see if any other Commissioners
7 have questions, comments. Okay, go ahead, Commissioner
8 Monahan.

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, I'll just be really
10 fast. I just want to thank the team and Jeremy, in
11 particular, for your leadership on this. And I mean,
12 you've been a personal resource in terms of understanding
13 why we are having these emergency rulemakings which, of
14 course, are not ideal in terms of public process. But
15 there is urgency here.

16 And I just want to acknowledge that we've been
17 given this mandate from the Legislature and the Governor.
18 We're taking it very seriously. Price transparency, and
19 reasons for basically teasing out why we're seeing these
20 price spikes in California that seem inexplicable in some
21 way, we're trying to actually find a root cause for it. So
22 I just appreciate the work of the team. This is
23 groundbreaking. Nobody else is doing this, as far as I
24 know, in the world, and for sure in the United States. So
25 just thanks for your leadership.

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
2 Monahan.

3 I think I just want to round up to thanks again
4 to Jeremy and also to CCO. CCO has been putting a
5 tremendous amount of work on this. We keep throwing
6 curveballs and somehow they come up with solutions, to
7 Aleecia and Chad.

8 I also want to give a big kudos to Drew who has
9 been, you know, in the leadership role on leading this
10 effort and now has specific roles and responsibilities as
11 it pertains to SB X1-2, so a shout out to Drew as well.

12 With that. I would like to ask Commissioner
13 Gallardo, would you like to move the item?

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item 7.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

16 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay. We'll take the vote
18 now.

19 Commissioner Gallardo.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

22 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. My vote is aye as
24 well and the vote count is 3-0 and passes. Thank you.

25 We're at about 12:19. You know, maybe we take a

1 break at this point and come back at 1:00 and get through
2 the rest of the agenda. So with that do I have your
3 permission, Mona, to pause? Yes, thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Yes. That's great, thank you.

5 (Off the record at 12:19 p.m.)

6 (On the record at 1:03 p.m.)

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you and welcome back,
8 everybody.

9 We are going to start with Item Number 8, CHEERS
10 Application to Register Low-Rise Multifamily Projects for
11 2022 Energy Code Compliance. Welcome, Armando Ramirez, so
12 thank you.

13 MR. RAMIREZ: Well, good afternoon, Vice Chair
14 and Commissioners. My name is Armando Ramirez. I am a
15 Mechanical Engineer in the CEC's Efficiency Division. I am
16 presenting the CHEERS Application to modify its data
17 registry. Next slide, please.

18 Both the Home Energy Rating System or HERS
19 regulations and Building Energy Efficiency Standards or
20 Energy Code regulations have requirements for handling
21 applications like this CHEERS's application.

22 A common requirement is that the Executive
23 Director must make a recommendation to the Commission
24 before the applicant can be approved. On June 17, 2024,
25 the Executive Director's recommendation to approve the

1 application was sent to CHEERS by email and submitted to
2 the Commission via docket log 22-HERS-01. Next slide.

3 How would today's approval benefit Californians?
4 Multifamily building projects, such as new building
5 construction and space conditioning changeouts, require
6 demonstration of compliance with the Energy Code. And for
7 buildings having fewer than four habitable floors such
8 projects are documented on a residential data registry and
9 compliance must be demonstrated through the process of
10 field verification and diagnostic testing or FV and DT.

11 The HERS program provides a system to train and
12 oversee raters who conduct FV and DT to rate a measure's
13 compliance with the code, which in turn ensures quality of
14 installation. These activities effectively protect
15 consumers and support the state's energy conservation and
16 decarbonization goals. Next slide, please.

17 CHEERS has applied for approval to modify its
18 residential data registry. But in December 2022, the
19 CHEERS registry was approved under the 2022 Energy Code to
20 register documents to demonstrate compliance for single-
21 family and nonresidential buildings, but not for low-rise
22 multifamily buildings.

23 CHEERS was also recertified as a California HERS
24 provider to train, certify, and oversee raters for field
25 verification and diagnostic testing under the 2022 Energy

1 Code. This application addresses the incorporation of low-
2 rise multifamily buildings using tools that were not
3 available to registration providers until late 2023. Next
4 slide.

5 Staff respectfully requests the Commission
6 approve the Executive Director recommendation to re-certify
7 CHEERS as a HERS provider for the 2022 Energy Code, which
8 would authorize CHEERS to implement updated rater
9 instructions and manuals. And to approve the CHEERS
10 application to modify its residential data registry to
11 incorporate specific low-rise multifamily compliance
12 documentation.

13 This concludes my presentation. Michael Murza
14 from the CEC's Office of the Chief Counsel and I are
15 available for questions. Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much, Armando,
17 for the presentation.

18 We'll go to public comment now. Thank you.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission now
20 welcomes public comment on Item 8. If you're joining us in
21 the room we're asking folks to raise their hand or use the
22 QR code to let us know you'd like to comment. And if
23 you're joining on Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature
24 on your screen, or *9 if you're joining by phone. That'll
25 let us know you'd like to comment.

1 And we don't have anyone in the room, so I'm
2 going to transition to Zoom. So on Zoom, we have Jim
3 Hodgson, excuse me. I'm going to open your line, Jim. We
4 are asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

5 MR. HODGSON: Hi, thank you and good afternoon.
6 My name is Jim Hodgson, spelled J-I-M H-O-D-G-S-O-N, and
7 I'm the Chief Executive Officer at CHEERS.

8 Low-rise multifamily was a major change in the
9 2022 Energy Code. And it's no secret that it introduced a
10 substantial new complexity to the compliance documentation
11 process.

12 But with that said, I want to personally thank
13 Will Vicent, Che Geiser, Armando Ramirez and the rest of
14 the CEC staff for taking a practical and reasonable
15 approach to our low-rise multifamily approval.

16 HERS raters and HERS providers play an absolutely
17 critical role in the implementation of California's
18 Building Energy Code. And we appreciate the continued
19 partnership with the Commission.

20 And with that, CHEERS looks forward to continuing
21 to serve the build industry for its code compliance needs.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

24 And there are no other raise hands. So back to
25 you, Vice Chair.

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

2 Thanks again, Armando, for the information
3 presented today.

4 I just want to give a big applause and thanks to
5 the Energy Efficiency Division for the work you're
6 continuing to do in this area. I know Commissioner
7 McAllister is the Lead for this particular area. And he's
8 not here today, so I just want to uplift his incredible
9 leadership in this area for many years now.

10 I think the HERS system is such a valuable tool
11 for California identifying, assessing, and improving the
12 energy performance of buildings. And so within the
13 context, I think this is continued work on your end to make
14 the program better.

15 I look forward to supporting the item and I'll
16 see if the other Commissioners have any comments.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Just quickly. I wanted
18 to thank you, Armando and the team, for the great briefing
19 he provided me to better understand the situation here.
20 And I think this is really important on the consumer
21 protection front. And so I think it's invaluable how much
22 effort you put in and wanted to acknowledge that. So thank
23 you very much.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay. Thanks again. With
25 that we'll take a vote.

1 Commissioner Gallardo, would you like to move the
2 item?

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item
4 Number 8.

5 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

7 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay, we'll take the vote now.
8 Commissioner Gallardo.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. My vote is aye as
13 well and item moves or passes 3-0. Thank you.

14 With that let's move to Item Number 9, Revised
15 2023 Additional Achievable Fuel Substitution or AAFS Hourly
16 Results of the California Energy Demand 2023-2040 Forecast.
17 Welcome, Nick Janusch, to present. Thank you.

18 MR. JANUSCH: Good afternoon, Vice Chair,
19 Commissioners. I am Nicholas Janusch, a Program and
20 Project Supervisor in the Advanced Electrification Analysis
21 Branch in the Energy Assessments Division. Today, I will
22 be presenting the Revised 2023 Additional Achievable Fuel
23 Substitution Hourly Results of the California Energy Demand
24 Forecast for your consideration to adopt. Next slide.

25 Demand forecasting is one of the Energy

1 Commission's charter responsibilities, and, as such, the
2 forecast has been incorporated into and described within
3 the 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report adopted earlier
4 this year. Importantly, the forecast is a critical
5 planning tool. It lays the foundation for a number of
6 state sponsored planning and procurement efforts, including
7 transmission and distribution planning, integrated resource
8 planning, resource adequacy, and other activities aimed at
9 keeping California's energy clean, reliable, and
10 affordable.

11 Regarding the benefits and purpose of the Revised
12 AAFS Hourly Results, the CEC discovered an error in the
13 spring of this year while answering stakeholder questions
14 regarding the forecast results of Hourly and Peak Demand
15 for Electricity.

16 The error occurred in a model input file, which
17 incorrectly assigned cooling load shapes to a portion of
18 the residential heat pump heating load. The error solely
19 affected the zero-emission appliance standards modeled in
20 the AAFS scenarios and led to an inaccurate amount of heat
21 pump load in the forecast occurring in the summer months.
22 The annual gas and electricity results were not affected.

23 Staff is proposing a revision to the six 2023
24 AAFS scenarios adopted in February 2024, and the 2023
25 Gradual Transformation AAFS scenario adopted in May 2024.

1 The revised results impact the overall electric hourly
2 results for the Planning Forecast and Local Reliability
3 Scenario. Next slide.

4 Regarding the stakeholder process, CEC staff met
5 and disclosed the error and revision to investor owned
6 utilities and agency partners: California Public Utilities
7 Commission, California Air Resources Board, and California
8 Independent System Operator.

9 At a June 12th demand analysis working group
10 meeting, CEC staff publicly presented the error and the
11 impacts of the revision. On the same day, CEC staff posted
12 the following revised data to the meeting webpage for the
13 Planning Forecast and Local Reliability Scenarios. Now, I
14 will briefly cover the impacts of the revised results.
15 Next slide, please.

16 Looking at the growth of the CAISO annual peaks
17 of the Planning Forecast and Local Reliability Scenario, we
18 can see that the revision shown in blue noticeably reduces
19 the growth annual peaks in the long-term. You can see no
20 noticeable impacts in the near-term. That is because the
21 error solely affected the impacts from the zero-emission
22 appliance standards that were modeled and characterized to
23 begin to have an impact as early as 2026. Next slide,
24 please.

25 I am now about to show you the impacts over time

1 to the monthly peaks by showing impacts to 2030 and 2040.

2 Here is 2030 where the orange line represents the
3 original forecast while blue shows the revision. The
4 revision does not change the annual results, but changes
5 only how the hourly loads are distributed throughout the
6 year. As can be seen here where the Planning Forecast is
7 on the left and Local Reliability Scenario is on the right,
8 the monthly peaks increase in winter and decrease in
9 summer. The largest change occurs in February. Next
10 slide, please.

11 The impacts in 2040 are noticeably more salient.
12 For both scenarios the winter peak increases by about 8,700
13 megawatts, and the summer peak decreases by 3,500
14 megawatts, because of the now correctly assigned heating
15 loads. For the Planning Forecast on the left, the winter
16 peak now surpasses the summer peak. For the Local
17 Reliability scenario on the right, the winter peak is now
18 just shy by about 1,000 megawatts of the summer peak. Next
19 slide, please.

20 What I have presented here today are high-level
21 results summarizing the revised AAFS results. The revised
22 files are posted in the 2023 IEPR docket. Should the
23 Commission vote to adopt the Revised 2023 AAFS Hourly
24 Results of the California Energy Demand 2023-2040 Forecast,
25 it will fulfill a public need of making the revisions

1 publicly available and be used as a critical planning tool
2 for ongoing and future energy planning proceedings. It
3 also reiterates the need to have adequate timing for
4 stakeholder feedback, and to allow a maximum time for
5 review to mitigate such issues that could impact the timing
6 of other energy planning proceedings.

7 CEC staff regrets the error. I'm happy to answer
8 any questions.

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Nick.

10 I think we're going to move to public comment.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission now
12 welcomes public comment on Item 9 at this time. If you're
13 joining us in the room, you could let us know you'd like to
14 comment by raised hand in the room or using our QR code.
15 And if you're joining by Zoom, you can use the raise hand
16 feature on your screen at this time or *9 if joining by
17 phone. And I'm just giving that a moment.

18 And we do not have any raised hands for this
19 item. So back to you, Vice Chair.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

21 Nick, just thanks again for the presentation and
22 to Heidi and the entire team. And I think it's never easy
23 to make a mistake. You know, I've been in your shoes as an
24 analyst making mistakes and catching them after the
25 adoption. So I just want recognize the integrity and the

1 accountability on owning the mistake and then quickly
2 trying to take measures to fix it, and doesn't let it flow
3 through the other processes.

4 And I also want to acknowledge that as a Lead
5 Commissioner, a part of our office's responsibility is to
6 make sure that we do the quality checking too. So I
7 apologize for not catching that either early on, but I
8 think I just want to extend thanks to the three utilities
9 and colleagues from PUC for helping both identify the issue
10 and also CAISO supporting us with the necessary feedback.

11 As you mentioned I think this scenario it
12 reiterates the need for that additional time for us to
13 internally kind of have a check, but also stakeholders to
14 provide input. And I know the number of steps you've taken
15 to improve the process this year. So just to say thanks
16 for all the work and I look forward to continuing to
17 improve the process to prevent such things to occur. I
18 can't promise 100 percent, but these things will happen.
19 But I'm really grateful for the quick corrections on this.

20 And you had a comment, Commissioner Gallardo?

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I agree with that and
22 just want to emphasize how important it is for us to be
23 humble, be accountable, and also the collaborative nature
24 of how everything happened. So also as one of the
25 Commissioners here, I also take responsibility. And I'm

1 grateful to the team for all you did and Vice Chair Gunda,
2 you also taking that responsibility. That's it.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you.

4 With that, Commissioner Monahan, would you move
5 the item.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve this
7 item.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay. We'll take the vote
11 now.

12 Commissioner Monahan.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: And I vote aye as well, so it
17 moves forward. Thanks for all the work.

18 With that we'll move to Item 10. Oh, sorry, we
19 don't have Item 10. That's removed from the agenda, so
20 we'll move to Item 11, Build It Green, welcome Felix to
21 present.

22 Good afternoon Vice Chairman, Commissioners. My
23 name is Felix Villanueva. I'm a Utilities Engineer with
24 the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Branch in
25 the Research Division. I'm here today to request approval

1 for one project. Next slide.

2 Last year, the California Energy Commission's
3 Electric Program Investment Charge released a Grant Funding
4 Opportunity for this solicitation. This competitive
5 solicitation sought to develop and demonstrate a decision
6 tool that would help California homeowners that want to
7 electrify their homes by avoiding panel upsizing and
8 provide information such as real-time electricity energy
9 usage, electrical panel capacity, and provide
10 recommendations to actionable pathways to achieve
11 electrification with an emphasis on homes that have panels
12 with 100 amps or less. And demonstrating an
13 electrification pathway that may include smart energy
14 managements systems such as circuit splitters combined with
15 emerging low-voltage appliances that plug into typical
16 power outlets.

17 In all, eight proposals were screened, reviewed
18 and evaluated and scored, and using the criteria prescribed
19 in the solicitation and the NOPA was released with one
20 awardee. Next slide.

21 The benefits to California ratepayers from this
22 project include cost-effective electrification planning,
23 adoption of low-voltage electric appliances, reduce peak
24 demand impacts especially during extreme weather
25 conditions, and reduce costs of distribution upgrades by

1 again avoiding panel upsizing.

2 It is estimated that there are 2.3 million
3 single-family homes that have 100-amp panels or less.
4 There is a potential for the state to avoid \$4.6 billion to
5 \$21 billion dollars in distribution upgrade costs if these
6 homes avoid panel upsizing. Next slide.

7 The project is with Build It Green. The team
8 will develop an open source tool for home electrification
9 that provides recommendations on power efficient design
10 including load controls, low voltage appliances, space
11 saving solutions, and other strategies for power efficient
12 electrification.

13 The Tool ensures compliance with the National
14 Electric Code to reduce the perceived risks associated with
15 novel approaches to home electrification. The Tool's
16 calculation engine will also include "Artificial
17 intelligence"-based approaches to identify the least cost
18 electrification recommendations.

19 Anticipated benefits include avoided costs of
20 \$2,000 to \$9,000 per home by not upsizing electrical
21 panels, provide real-time residential energy use, and be a
22 freely available tool to homeowners, electricians, and
23 electrification programs. Next slide.

24 So I would ask for your approval and adopt
25 staff's determination that this project is exempt from

1 CEQA, and I am happy to answer any questions.

2 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Felix.

3 We will move to public comment now.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission now
5 welcomes public comment on Item 11. If you're joining us
6 in the room, you can raise your hand or use the QR code to
7 let us know. And if you're joining us on Zoom, please use
8 the raise hand feature on your screen, or *9 if joining on
9 the phone.

10 And I'm just giving that a moment. We don't have
11 anyone in the room, so I'm going to transition to -- excuse
12 me. Yeah, we don't have anyone in the room. I'm going to
13 transition to Zoom.

14 Jenny Low, I'm going to open your line. If you
15 can, please unmute on your end. And we're asking for
16 comments to be two minutes or less.

17 MS. LOW: Good afternoon, I'm Jenny Low. I am
18 the Senior Program Manager at Build It Green. My name is
19 J-E-N-N-Y L-O-W. I just want to first express my thanks to
20 the Energy Commission staff for seeing a need for this
21 project and your time to make this a reality.

22 And again, I'll be the staff member helping to
23 head this amazing project with the team that we put
24 together on creating an easy to use open source residential
25 electrical panel optimization software tool.

1 I'll be representing our team who is composed of
2 the Central California Asthma Collaborative, Home Energy
3 Analytics, LBNL, Big Carbon, (phonetic) Redwood Energy,
4 SPUR, Tom Cabot (phonetic) and TRC. And I just want to
5 share our excitement to work on the design this power tool
6 and the company field research. Because everyone on our
7 team has been focused on understanding and spreading this
8 awareness on the strategies to optimize the electrical
9 panel for the past several years.

10 So this grant project is providing us a great
11 opportunity to bring our diverse team together, build on
12 our various past works. And put our collective skills and
13 experiences to build a tangible practical solution to avoid
14 panel upsizing where possible, so that we can quickly and
15 effectively electrify the millions of homes we have across
16 the state for a stable climate future. Thank you for your
17 time.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 That concludes public comment for this item.

20 Back to you, Vice Chair.

21 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thanks, Mona.

22 And again, thank you, Felix for the presentation.

23 I personally am very excited about this on a couple of
24 different fronts, both on the rate impacts but also the
25 opportunity to do the electrification right? So I kind of

1 have a quick question. So kind of in the utilization of
2 the tool, right, once everything's ready how do you
3 anticipate that being used? Is it used by the end
4 consumers? Who's going to be using that?

5 MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes, it's direct to homeowners.
6 If they decide, "Hey, I want to electrify my home. What's
7 the possibility of that?" This tool will help them
8 determine how much capacity is on their electrical panel
9 and then provide them a way to do that if they if they
10 choose to.

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Awesome. And what other data
12 sources are kind of inputted and are they kind of
13 automated. I mean, I'm just kind of thinking about the
14 ease of use for the end consumer. How does that look?

15 MR. VILLANUEVA: I think it's going to include a
16 rich dataset of what's available as far as low-voltage
17 appliances and other smart energy management systems. And
18 it's going to be hopefully automated through AI to
19 determine hey, this is how much energy this house is using,
20 this is how much capacity it has. And it's going to
21 recommend the best and most cost effective electrification
22 pathway for that specific home.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Got it. And then you said
24 there is a -- so is there a virtual audit of the building
25 that's done or, you know, how was that done? Like how are

1 the existing appliances inputted into the tool, is that
2 (indiscernible) --

3 MR. VILLANUEVA: Okay, so let's get to it. So I
4 think there's different methods. The team can get that
5 information. But I think one method that we're looking
6 into hopefully, is smart energy data, or smart green data,
7 and getting the amount of energy that each of the appliance
8 uses specifically. And then determine, hey you have a high
9 energy using appliance, and here's a low voltage appliance.
10 Or a circuit splitter that can help alleviate the energy
11 use of those electric appliances.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, it's wonderful. And
13 then I just recommend we strongly coordinate with PUC. I
14 think there's a good opportunity here and also the POS on
15 how best to deploy such a tool as we move forward.

16 MR. VILLANUEVA: Agreed.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: So with that, Commissioner, do
18 you have any comment?

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: No, it's a really cool
20 tool. Do we have any, like estimated time of arrival?

21 MR. VILLANUEVA: The projects four years and
22 hopefully the tool, will at least be developed in the first
23 two years and then be kind of implemented and demonstrated
24 in the later two years.

25 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I think all the

1 Commissioners want to be like guinea pigs in that rollout.

2 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, when I hear about
4 tools like this is when I feel like an energy nerd, because
5 I got really excited. And I think it's going to be so
6 useful, so thank you for you know, briefing me on this and
7 for the investment.

8 I also want to acknowledge Jenny Low from Build
9 It Green, who noted all the collaborators involved in this
10 effort. I think that's fantastic, and I'm excited to see
11 it. So thank you, Felix.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much.

13 So with that, Commissioner Gallardo, would you
14 move the item?

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I move to approve Item
16 Number 11.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

18 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yes, I second.

19 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay. We'll take the vote.
20 Commissioner Gallardo.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commission Monahan.

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I vote aye as well and item
25 passes 3-0. Thank you so much.

1 MR. VILLANUEVA: Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Let's move to Item 12,
3 Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Welcome Yahui Yang
4 to present.

5 MR. YANG: Good afternoon, Vice Chair and
6 Commissioners. I am Yahui Yang, a Mechanical Engineer in
7 the Energy Research and Development Division.

8 Today I will be presenting a long duration energy
9 storage agreement with Sacramento Municipal Utility
10 District, or SMUD. If approved, this will be the first
11 long duration storage project funded by CEC in partnership
12 with a public utility. The project will be supported by a
13 CEC grant of \$10 million, which will leverage an additional
14 \$20 million in match funds. Next slide, please.

15 SMUD will partner with ESS Tech Inc. to
16 demonstrate their innovative Energy Centers, which utilize
17 iron flow battery that is based on non-lithium ion
18 technology. The project aims to scale up the manufacturing
19 capacity and deployment of iron flow batteries, thereby
20 accelerating the commercialization of this battery storage
21 technology. By improving battery performance and
22 identifying optimal use cases, this energy storage
23 technology will be more cost-competitive than lithium-ion
24 batteries for long duration energy storage.

25 In addition, the project will evaluate how

1 enhanced energy storage performance can improve grid
2 distribution and the transmission systems by providing
3 firm, dispatchable and zero-carbon energy. Next slide
4 please.

5 The iron flow battery is developed and
6 manufactured by ESS Tech Inc., and it provides up to 8
7 hours of discharge at rated power. These battery units
8 feature a flexible, modular design, allowing for customized
9 power and discharge durations, and can be configured and
10 scaled up to reach GW capacity.

11 The batteries are made from easily sourced
12 materials, such as iron, salt, and water. There is no risk
13 of thermal runaway, and the need for fire-suppression and
14 hazardous material requirements are greatly simplified.

15 The batteries use the same electrolyte on both
16 the negative and positive sides. This design eliminates
17 cross-contamination and helps the batteries last longer.
18 According to ESS, these batteries have a design life of 25
19 years, and can complete over 20,000 cycles.

20 In addition, most of the materials used in the
21 battery system can be recycled or re-used at the end of
22 their life. The annual operation and maintenance
23 requirements are minimal, and the system can be operated
24 and monitored remotely 24x7. Next slide, please.

25 Under this project, SMUD will demonstrate a 3.6

1 megawatt energy storage system with a capacity of 29
2 megawatt hours at its Hedge Solar Facility in Sacramento,
3 which is located in a low-income and disadvantaged
4 community.

5 The system will be tested for front-of-the-meter
6 applications, including its ability to support grid
7 reliability, enhance electric resilience during extreme
8 weather conditions or grid emergencies, and reduce the need
9 for natural gas power plants.

10 The project will deploy a total of 25 energy
11 centers that will be manufactured by ESS Tech Inc. These
12 energy centers are double stacked to save system footprint
13 and land use, as shown in this picture, with the flow
14 batteries housed in the bottom container and power
15 electronics in the upper container.

16 Successful completion of this project will enable
17 SMUD to scale up the deployment of long-duration energy
18 storage in the next few years, reaching up to 200 megawatts
19 by the year 2028. So next slide, please.

20 Staff proposes to approve the agreement with SMUD
21 and adopt staff's determination that the agreement is
22 exempt from CEQA. And approve the agreement with SUMD.
23 Thank you for your time, and I'm available to answer any
24 questions you may have. Also SMUD will have a
25 representative to support this agreement.

1 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you.

2 Yeah, we will go to public comment now.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission welcomes
4 public comment on Item 12 at this time. We'll take
5 comments in the room and then we'll transition to Zoom.
6 And if you're in the room with us and use the QR code, I
7 have your name or you can also raise your hand.

8 And we have and we have James Fraser in the room
9 with us. James, if you want to approach the podium and
10 make your comment we're asking for comments to the two
11 minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

12 MR. FRASHER: Excellent, thank you. Good
13 afternoon Vice Chair Gunda and Commissioners. I'm James
14 Frasher, J-A-M-E-S F-R-A-S-H-E-R. I'm the Manager of
15 Economic Development in Partnership at SMUD.

16 I want to start by first thanking the CEC for
17 their continued support of innovative technologies and
18 solutions that are necessary to decarbonize our grid. I
19 particularly also want to thank the Commission staff that
20 supported us throughout this process and their hard work
21 that they committed to bringing us to this point,
22 especially Yahui Yang and Mike Gravely. They were
23 incredible partners as we've as we've walked through this
24 journey.

25 SMUD's on an ambitious path to achieve zero

1 carbon by 2030. Our plan is largely based on established
2 and proven clean technologies. But when we adopted our
3 plan, we also acknowledged that there was a significant
4 component of technology that did still require innovation.
5 That needed to transition from small scale manufacturing
6 into large scale manufacturing and readily available
7 solutions that we can adopt as utility viable operational
8 components.

9 Long duration energy storage for us was one of
10 those components. It was one of those elements that was
11 near market ready, it had a lot of technology potential,
12 had a lot of commercialization potential, but needed that
13 extra push, needed that acceleration component. And so
14 with this 3.6 megawatt project, we're very excited to be
15 taking that step alongside the CEC to accelerate the
16 demonstration of the technology, to accelerate the D cost
17 (phonetic) of the technology. To see it ramp up in terms
18 of its ability to be produced at the scale that we need we
19 envision this as being our first step towards an eventual
20 deployment of 200 megawatts of long duration energy
21 storage, a tool that can be incredibly critical towards
22 achieving our long-term goals of zero carbon.

23 Again, thank you for your consideration of this
24 project and seeing this vision alongside of us of the zero
25 carbon future. We appreciate it

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

2 We don't have any other raised hands for this
3 item. So back to you, Vice Chair.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

5 I just want to thank Yahoo, for your
6 presentation. It was really complete and thorough. I
7 don't have any questions, but just want to add a couple of
8 comments on just the exciting partnership between CEC and
9 SMUD. And I want to just uplift and congratulate SMUD on
10 some incredible work that SMUD has been doing over the last
11 several years. I'm really excited to see the continued
12 investment not only in the zero carbon future, but doing it
13 in a way that we all learn from having a very thorough
14 community engagement.

15 I also want to uplift our Chair's leadership and
16 his bullish commitment to long duration energy storage.
17 And his like person here, Mike Gravely, here. So thank
18 you, Mike, for all the work that you do.

19 As noted earlier, I think long duration energy
20 storage is such a critical, critical tool for the
21 decarbonization strategy. Both for developing the
22 conditions necessary for a reliable transition away from
23 the gas fleet, but also for some for winter application.
24 So it's a really important tool, and finding the necessary
25 conditions for it to be successful both from an economies

1 of scale performance and rate structures, is really
2 important.

3 So I'm really looking forward to the success of
4 this project and looking forward to supporting it.

5 Commissioner Monahan.

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Yeah, I had a question
7 and a comment. So just a question about iron flow
8 batteries, can you just give us a quick primer like pros
9 and cons? And maybe that's Mike, I'm not sure. But just
10 like what are the big barriers to deployment that you see?

11 MR. YANG: Yeah, sure. So the advantages of this
12 kind of iron flow battery is that they are relatively
13 cheap, compared with other emerging long duration energy
14 storage technologies.

15 Also, actually the performance actually does not
16 degrade throughout the whole design life, because these
17 batteries -- the battery system is integrated with actually
18 a mechanism, which cast cell balance that the chemistry,
19 the chemical reaction inside that so that they do not need
20 to upgrade their battery later on. (indiscernible) even
21 thousands of cycles. Actually, the performance is still
22 similar. So that's the biggest advantage of that.

23 Yeah, the other side this technology actually is
24 already at a relatively high level of commercial readiness,
25 but still actually it needs state funds in order to help it

1 to further materialize actually to make it more mature.
2 That's why actually SMUD is partnering with ESS, this
3 partnership will help actually brings their technology to
4 the next commercial level.

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: That's great. Thank you.

6 Well, and I just want to commend SMUD for your
7 leadership, generally, in the clean energy space. You've
8 been a real leader when it comes to transportation
9 electrification, building electrification, really paying
10 attention to equity. And so just appreciate that you're
11 also helping us win in terms of the long duration energy
12 storage that we need to achieve as a state to reach our
13 goals.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah, Commissioner Gallardo.

15 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yeah, this is excellent.
16 And I want to highlight the fact that we have a really
17 ambitious goal in terms of our mission to get to 100
18 percent clean energy future for all Californians. And we
19 need partners for that. And so SMUD as acknowledged has
20 been such a good partner already, and then this opportunity
21 to be even more innovative is a reflection of how we will
22 get there. So I have I have that faith that that we will,
23 and this just makes it more concrete.

24 And thank you so much, Yahui and Mike, for your
25 leadership and all your contributions, the great briefing

1 that you provided for me, and the great presentation that
2 you made here.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
4 Gallardo. Would you like to move the item, Commissioner
5 Gallardo?

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I'd be honored to. I
7 move to approve Item Number 12.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan, second?

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I second.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay with that we'll take the
11 vote.

12 Commissioner Gallardo.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Monahan.

15 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: And I vote aye as well. Thank
17 you and the motion passes 3-0. Thanks.

18 We'll move to Item 13, Round 2 - RAMP 2022:
19 Realizing Accelerated Manufacturing and Production for
20 Clean Energy Technologies. Welcome, Benson Gilbert to
21 present.

22 MR. GILBERT: Thank you. Good afternoon, Vice
23 Chair and Commissioners. My name is Benson Gilbert from
24 the Energy Research and Development Division.

25 Today, I am requesting approval for 9 grant

1 agreements selected from the solicitation "Realizing
2 Accelerated Manufacturing and Production for Clean Energy
3 Technologies," also known as RAMP.

4 This funding will help clean energy entrepreneurs
5 advance their technology to the pilot production stage at
6 manufacturing facilities in California. Next slide,
7 please.

8 Helping clean energy entrepreneurs scale their
9 technologies accelerates California's progress towards its
10 energy goals, and supporting manufacturing can lead to more
11 skilled labor opportunities in California. Next slide,
12 please.

13 RAMP is the last step in the entrepreneurial
14 ecosystem developed by the Technology Innovation and
15 Entrepreneurship Branch to propel clean energy
16 entrepreneurs to the Low-Rate Initial Production stage,
17 known as LRIP. Next slide, please.

18 LRIP is the first step in the transition from
19 customized hand-built prototypes, which are used for
20 performance testing and vetting the production process, to
21 a mass-produced product in the Full-Rate Production phase.
22 In short, transitioning to the LRIP stage is about maturing
23 a technology to meet the requirements of potential
24 customers within the technology's beachhead market.

25 This transition can be challenging for several

1 reasons. For example, it can be difficult to secure funds
2 for activities like buying equipment, product testing, and
3 certification. Adapt emerging technology to fit the scope
4 of established manufacturing processes. And companies may
5 lack the required knowledge and expertise in the
6 manufacturing field. Next slide, please.

7 The CEC has conducted three prior solicitation
8 rounds of RAMP. In these 3 rounds, 19 companies have
9 received over \$52 million in CEC funds. These recipients
10 have collectively hired over 1,100 workers since their
11 projects started and have also collectively raised over
12 \$780 million in follow-on funding, which is about 15 times
13 more than the CEC funds they received. Next slide, please.

14 Now let's meet the newest RAMP projects. Next
15 slide, please.

16 The first project will advance Swift Solar's
17 perovskite-silicon tandem solar technology. Today's solar
18 cells are limited in their efficiency, which has a
19 practical ceiling of approximately 25 percent, and their
20 application, since they are heavy and rigid. Swift Solar's
21 tandem solar cells raise this ceiling to about 35 percent,
22 allowing for more solar power production from the same
23 surface area.

24 This technology is also lighter, more durable,
25 and more easily applied to curved surfaces, allowing for PV

1 to be integrated into new applications such as electric
2 vehicles and consumer electronics. Next slide, please.

3 Next, Stasis Energy Group will increase
4 production of their thermal energy storage system, which
5 uses a phase change material to store energy from normal
6 HVAC operations early in the day or off-peak, and then
7 provides air conditioning during periods of peak energy
8 demand, resulting in an average of 50 percent kWh load
9 shift and 60 percent peak kW reduction. The product can be
10 economically installed into new or retrofitted into
11 existing packaged HVAC systems.

12 And Stasis Energy Group has targeted a hard-to-
13 reach market segment, composed of small and medium
14 commercial buildings in disadvantaged and low-income
15 communities. Next slide, please.

16 Next, Rincell Corporation is commercializing
17 high-energy cells with silicon and graphite, which are two
18 widely available and inexpensive materials. Silicon
19 batteries often have a short lifespan, but Rincell is using
20 a proprietary battery additive to address these concerns
21 and increase safety.

22 Rincell will set up a battery manufacturing
23 facility in California capable of producing a minimum of
24 500 battery cells per day, with the plan to achieve a
25 production capacity of about 25 MWh per year. Next slide,

1 please.

2 This project by Sonocharge Energy will increase
3 production of an acoustic wave technology that improves the
4 mobility of lithium ions, reducing dendrite formation and
5 lithium plating, which reduce battery life. This
6 technology can roughly double the life of battery packs.
7 Next slide, please.

8 Up next is the Harvest Pod controller by Harvest
9 Thermal. This device uses machine learning to control a
10 hot water storage tank and an air-to-water heat pump, which
11 together forms an all-in-one system for space heating,
12 cooling, and hot water. By shifting the home's hot water
13 and heating electric loads away from peak periods and
14 storing the energy in the form of hot water, the Harvest
15 Pod essentially transforms a regular hot water tank into a
16 smart thermal battery.

17 The Harvest Thermal system energy costs are 20-40
18 percent less than those of traditional heat pumps and 25-45
19 percent less than those of natural gas alternatives. Next
20 slide, please.

21 UP next is Sylvatex, which is creating a pilot
22 manufacturing line for cathode active materials, which are
23 the most expensive and energy intensive part of lithium-ion
24 batteries. Their process works with all major battery
25 chemistries and maintains the high battery standards needed

1 for EVs while also lowering the cost and environmental
2 impacts of battery production. Next slide, please.

3 BoxPower is scaling up production of their Remote
4 Grid SolarContainer. This is a turnkey microgrid product
5 that provides a utility-grade renewable energy supply that
6 can be rapidly deployed in any location, including
7 California's rural and wildfire-prone regions. The
8 SolarContainer can replace hazardous overhead distribution
9 lines, reducing wildfire risk at a lower cost than
10 traditional grid hardening or wildfire mitigation efforts.
11 Next slide, please.

12 Next, Current Ways is scaling up production of
13 their onboard charger, which is capable of Level 2 charging
14 rates and offers bidirectional capabilities such as
15 vehicle-to-grid and vehicle-to-load. This device will
16 provide automotive OEMs with a low cost and universal way
17 to adopt bidirectional capabilities within their electric
18 vehicles. End-users will benefit from up to 33 percent
19 faster charging times and can support grid resilience by
20 contributing power back to the grid or using their vehicle
21 as a mobile power source. Next, slide please.

22 For the last project, Wrightspeed's technology
23 supports California's ambitious goals to electrify medium-
24 duty and heavy-duty vehicles. Wrightspeed's repower kit
25 enables the conversion of diesel trucks and buses to

1 electric vehicles. This allows fleet owners to convert to
2 electric vehicles at a lower price and with less waste,
3 since they don't have to dispose of an entire bus or truck.
4 Local mechanics or employees of the fleet owners can be
5 trained to install the repower kit, providing jobs where
6 fleet owners operate, including in disadvantaged
7 communities. Next slide, please.

8 Staff recommends approval of these 9 grant
9 agreements and staff's determination that these projects
10 are exempt from CEQA. This concludes my presentation and
11 thank you for your consideration. Staff is available for
12 questions.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much, Benson.

14 We'll go to public comment.

15 MS. BADIE: The Commission now welcomes public
16 comment on Item 13 at this time. We'll start in the room
17 and then we'll move over to Zoom. If you're in the room
18 with us, and you've used the QR code, I have your name and
19 then also we'll take a show of hands in the room. And then
20 on Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on your screen
21 to let us know you'd like to comment or press *9 if you're
22 joining us on the phone.

23 So we're going to start in the room. We've got
24 Jignesh Parikh. Thank you for your patience, if you want
25 to approach the podium. And we are asking for comments to

1 be two minutes or less and it's helpful if you could spell
2 your name also before making your remarks.

3 MR. PARIKH: Hi, my name is Jignesh Parikh. I'm
4 the co-founder and CEO of Rincell Corporation. I wanted to
5 thank the California Energy Commission for this grant.
6 This grant, as was highlighted earlier, will allow Rincell
7 to establish a pilot manufacturing line that will support
8 the highest energy and performance in the whole world for
9 battery applications that goes into electric vehicles,
10 energy storage, (indiscernible) and drones among others.
11 This grant will allow Rincell to contribute towards
12 California's economy, job growth, and towards supporting
13 California's clean energy and zero emission goals. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 And now we will transition to Zoom. So first
17 we'll hear from Didier Wimmers. Didier, I'm going to open
18 your line. You will unmute on your end. We are asking for
19 comments to be two minutes or less.

20 MR. WIMMERS: Good afternoon Vice Chair Gunda and
21 Commissioners. My name is Didier Wimmers, D-I-D-I-E-R W-
22 I-M-M-E-R-S, Senior Director of New Product Introduction at
23 Harvest Thermal and Project Manager for our proposed RAMP
24 project.

25 Harvest Thermal was founded 5 years ago with a

1 vision of decarbonizing heating and hot water for
2 residential homes. A small group of people from various
3 backgrounds developed an elegant solution that addresses 10
4 percent of America's carbon problem, using a heat pump and
5 a thermal battery. We now have a working product,
6 installed at multiple customers' homes and RAMP funding
7 will support the setup of our manufacturing line to produce
8 this revolutionary design in volume.

9 We want to say "Thank you" to the CEC for their
10 consideration and support as we look forward to bringing
11 the value of thermal storage as a key strategy for meeting
12 its decarbonization goals. Thank you.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you. Next we'll hear from Rob
14 Morton. Rob, I'm going to open your line. We are asking
15 for comments to be two minutes or less.

16 MR. MORTON: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is
17 Robert Morton, M-O-R-T-O-N. I'm the President and Founder
18 of Stasis Energy Group. Chair Hochschild, Commissioners,
19 and Director Jonah Steinbuck, (phonetic) on behalf of
20 Stasis Energy Group, thank you very much for your
21 consideration of our novel thermal storage technology.

22 The Stasis Energy Group TESS is a smart thermal
23 energy storage system designed to relieve use, stress, and
24 load on packaged HVAC systems. And which specifically
25 targets the large inventory of existing HVAC units

1 currently in use throughout the state.

2 Our technology is ready to scale and awarded this
3 RAMP grant will accelerate our delivery of low flexibility
4 benefits to all California stakeholders. We can reduce
5 late day energy demand, shift consumption from peak to off
6 peak, and deliver energy efficiency all while addressing
7 the often hard to reach existing market of small and mid-
8 sized commercial buildings.

9 We're very grateful for this opportunity. The
10 CEC has provided support to my company, Stasis Energy
11 Group, beginning with the CalSEED Concept followed by the
12 CalSEED prototype CalTestBed recently completed bridge.
13 Without your support, frankly, Stasis Energy Group would
14 not be here today. Thank you very much.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 Next we'll hear from Mel Luetkens. Mel, I'm
17 going to open your line. We are asking for comments to be
18 two minutes or less.

19

20 MR. LUETKENS: Hello, my name is Mel Luetkens, M-
21 E-L L-U-E-T-K-E-N-S. I'm a chemical industry expert with
22 decades of experience in working on manufacturing projects
23 globally. I want to take this opportunity as the Chief
24 Operating Officer of Sylvatex to thank the CEC leadership,
25 and the California government for supporting a vision for

1 the significant reduction of the cost to produce battery
2 materials and accelerate adoption of EV applications
3 including EVs and stationary storage.

4 We certainly appreciate the support for scaling
5 our innovation, and supporting really the vision for
6 increasing manufacturing jobs in California and throughout
7 the US, as we build a technology that allows us to compete
8 directly with Chinese production of battery materials, and
9 certainly expedite the delivery of clean energy.

10 Our technology specifically results in reductions
11 in cost, the capital to produce the material, reductions in
12 greenhouse gases. And it produces no waste, so we get rid
13 of the traditional sodium sulfate waste and water waste,
14 which is certainly significant as we consider shifts in the
15 global environment, and the importance of water and
16 maintaining clean water.

17 Formally we're agnostic in terms of the battery
18 material that we do produce with this technology, so it
19 allows us to compete in low cost LFP as well as in high
20 performance NMC. Enabling us to develop significant
21 options for electric vehicles in terms of range and
22 charging speed.

23 We certainly see that Sylvania important to
24 California, as our technology certainly supports efficient
25 water utilization, elimination of disposal, and alleviates

1 permitting pressures on CAM (phonetic) facilities and
2 expansions.

3 I also would like to recognize the fact that
4 there's an abundance of lithium in California, that could
5 play a critical role in the battery supply chain. So thank
6 you very much for the opportunity.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

8 Next we'll hear from Patrick Millham. Patrick,
9 I'm going to open your line. We are asking for comments to
10 be two minutes or less, there'll be a timer on the screen.

11 MR. MILLHAM: Thank you. My name is Patrick
12 Millham, Chief of Staff at Swift Solar, P-A-T-R-I-C-K M-I-
13 L-L-H-A-M. On behalf of Swift Solar, I would like to thank
14 the CEC and the Governor. Solar is the future of energy
15 and prospects for the future are solar. And we are excited
16 by this opportunity and to establish California as a hub
17 for next generation solar manufacturing. Thank you all.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

19 Next we'll hear from An Huang. An, I'm going to
20 open your line. And we're asking for comments to be two
21 minutes or less.

22 MS. HUANG: Good afternoon, Chair Hochschild,
23 Commissioners and Director Jonah Steinbuck. My name is An
24 Huang, A-N H-U-A-N-G. I'm the Founder and the CEO of
25 Sonocharge Energy. Sonocharge is developing an exciting

1 acoustic platform technology aimed at enhancing the battery
2 longevity, charging speed, and also the safety contributing
3 to California's decarbonization.

4 The support from CEC allows Sonocharge to
5 establish our first pilot production facility. This
6 opportunity marks a significant step forward for our team
7 and our commitment to advancing the sustainable technology.
8 I like to use this opportunity to thank you for the support
9 from the beginning of our journey from CalSEED to CalSEED
10 prototype. And now to the RAMP program.

11 Thank you again for your support of Sonocharge
12 (indiscernible) and the invaluable opportunity. Thank you.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14 And that is all the raised hands, so back to you,
15 Vice Chair.

16 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

17 Thanks again, Benson, for the wonderful
18 presentation and all the hard work for you and the team on
19 this round of solicitations.

20 I'm really excited about the diversity of the
21 projects, both in terms of technology and geography. It
22 looks like north and south we have projects. And
23 specifically on the technology diversity I'm excited about
24 both the load shaping opportunity through the HVAC, and
25 other issues. And also the batteries, I think that's a

1 really important technology for us in the long transition.

2 I kind of have just a question, I think
3 specifically on the Stasis one. Do you know like is the
4 retrofit within the ductwork or outside the ductwork?

5 MR. GILBERT: It's put inside the ductwork.

6 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Inside the inside the
7 ductwork? And does that compromise the efficiency in terms
8 of airflow and stuff or not? Thank you. So I just had a
9 question on that, right. It's just like really exciting to
10 see these projects. I look forward to supporting it.

11 And let me see, do you have anything?

12 Commissioner Monahan, go ahead.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I just want to
14 congratulate all the grantees. And wonderful that I think
15 every single one provided some input and in their comments,
16 so just thanks to them for showing up and for competing and
17 winning these grant opportunities. And to the team for
18 putting together as Vice Chair Gunda said, a really diverse
19 exciting portfolio.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I'm really excited about
21 these investments as well. And I like how you highlighted
22 at the beginning, you know the amount of investment we're
23 making, and then how that's making even more money
24 available to them. I forget what you said, how many times?
25 Like 15 times.

1 MR. GILBERT: (Overlapping) Like 15 times, going
2 from \$52 million to \$780 million.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: That's a significant
4 amount. And so I'm grateful that you showed that. And
5 also, I was going to emphasize the geographic diversity.
6 That I think it's really important to show that statewide
7 impact. And I'm just going to specify Vice Chair, you
8 mentioned North and South. It's San Francisco Bay Area,
9 Alameda County, City of Alameda, Grass Valley. It's
10 Southern California including San Diego, and then the
11 Central Coast, Ventura County, where I'm from. So I really
12 appreciated that and just want to make sure we highlight
13 that.

14 And then I also wanted to suggest -- this isn't a
15 complaint, it's just a suggestion to include the breakdown
16 of the diversity in terms of ownership of the of these
17 companies as well, similar to what's done with CalSEED. I
18 think it's an opportunity to showcase even further the
19 benefits and the impact that these types of investments are
20 making.

21 So thank you, Benson, for all your hard work and
22 the team's work on this. I'm really proud of it.

23 MR. GILBERT: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Gallardo.

1 So Benson, just before we move to the vote I
2 think it's, manufacturing is such an important part of
3 California creating those opportunities, and helping these
4 companies go through that valley of death, right, is such
5 an important part. And I think in delivering the vision
6 for the state, I think it's such an important part. I'm
7 always excited about what R&D does and the 23 million of
8 investments that we're going to do.

9 I think, in the spirit of what Commissioner
10 Gallardo was saying, it would be good for us to track the
11 potential impact on rates, as we think through. And I
12 think going back to the previous presentation, how do these
13 investments ultimately help us both scale and accelerate to
14 the future that we're getting to. But especially those
15 affordability metrics and such. It'd be really helpful to
16 think about how do we track progress or just the
17 opportunity in those areas.

18 So again, congratulations. Excellent work. And
19 with that, I would --

20 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Can I ask you a question
21 about that?

22 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: You could.

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: So when you say track
24 rates, you mean as we electrify what that means for rates?

25 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Not just rates. I think, you

1 know, in terms of yeah the rate impacts, right. So if we
2 are going to, for example, shave off the evening peak
3 because of this, would that benefit rates in the long run?
4 And then what would that -- would it be a downward impact
5 on rates, because of the way we'll have to build the energy
6 system.

7 Thank you, Commissioner Monahan. With that,
8 would you like to move the item?

9 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 13.

10 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay, we'll take the vote.

13 Commissioner Monahan?

14 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I vote aye as well and the
18 item passes 3-0. Thank you so much.

19 MR. GILBERT: Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. With that let's
21 move to Item 14, California's Fifth Climate Change
22 Assessment Tribal Research Grant Program. I welcome Quenby
23 Lum to present and thank you. I apologize if I
24 mispronounced your first name.

25 MS. LUM: Let me see if I can get this right.

1 Does that work? Okay.

2 Good afternoon, Vice Chair and Commissioners.

3 I'm Quenby Lum from the Siting, From the Siting,
4 Transmission and Environmental Protection Division. This
5 next item is a solicitation titled, "California's Fifth
6 Climate Change Assessment Tribal Research Grant Program."
7 We are proposing to award eight projects and total from the
8 solicitation. Six of these projects are being presented
9 today and the other two will be presented at a future
10 business meeting. Next slide, please.

11 Through California's Fifth Climate Change
12 Assessment, the state is investing in tribally led climate
13 change research initiatives. The Fifth Assessment is a
14 multi-agency collaboration between the Governor's Office of
15 Planning and Research, California Natural Resources Agency,
16 California Strategic Growth Council and California Energy
17 Commission. Next slide, please.

18 Our current effort builds upon the important work
19 of the Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report which began
20 with California's Fourth Climate Assessment. This effort
21 is a mutual invitation between tribes and the state to
22 share learning with an urgent focus on climate action,
23 incorporating traditional knowledges and practices.

24 Climate change is impacting the natural and
25 cultural resources vital to traditional tribal ways of

1 life. In October 2020, Governor Newsom signed Executive
2 Order N-82-20, endorsing nature based solutions to address
3 climate change in California. This supports opportunities
4 to integrate and include tribal science and tribal
5 priorities into resource management, planning and policy
6 objectives. Next slide, please.

7 Our Tribal Research Grant Program is a very
8 unique program tailored to tribal needs, concerns, and
9 priorities related to climate change. As a part of the
10 larger tribal research program and Fifth Climate Assessment
11 our grant program was specifically designed for try and was
12 informed and developed in collaboration with our three
13 partner agencies by engagement through tribal workshops and
14 listening sessions, presentations at tribal work groups and
15 conferences, tribal consultations, survey responses to
16 identify topic priorities and gaps, one-on-one
17 conversations with tribes and tribal serving organizations.
18 And feedback and comments we received during our draft
19 solicitation 90 day open comment period, and during our two
20 draft solicitation workshops.

21 The program was given \$3.6 million and this
22 funding was made available to California Native American
23 tribes, California tribal organizations, and tribal serving
24 nongovernmental organizations to support tribally led
25 climate research. Next slide, please.

1 These are the six tribal governments that we're
2 proposing to award today. A vital component of our grant
3 program is to support tribal efforts to maintain and
4 safeguard their cultural values, cultural traditions, and
5 traditional ecological knowledge. The projects you'll hear
6 about today are working to preserve and incorporate this
7 crucial knowledge and information into current resource
8 management practices. Next slide, please.

9 This is a map showing the distribution of the six
10 tribal climate projects throughout California. We have a
11 good representation of the diverse tribal communities and
12 geographic regions throughout the state. So geographic
13 location was not taken into consideration during our
14 proposal evaluation process. So this is just a very
15 serendipitous outcome that we have such a good
16 representation throughout our state.

17 Next, also is that we also have three federally
18 recognized and three non-federally recognized awardees, so
19 that's also a good distribution there as well. Next slide,
20 please.

21 So next, I'll briefly describe the main purpose
22 and goals of each project. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of
23 Pomo Indians are proposing to treat approximately 57 acres
24 located on Rancheria land in Sonoma County as a forest
25 health and climate adaptation project.

1 They'll be using pre- and post-fire fuel
2 reduction, and re-vegetation management using native plants
3 and traditional ecological knowledge. Tribal elder
4 interviews will also help document indigenous health
5 indicators.

6 So here on the left is a map depicting the
7 depicting the extent of the 2019 Kincadee fire in red and
8 the Dry Creek Rancheria property in yellow. And on the
9 right is an enlarged view where you can see the proposed
10 treatment area of forest and oak woodland, and also the
11 extent of the wildfire that encroached onto Rancheria
12 property.

13 So the buildings and structures were built around
14 2005 and 2008, so that 2019 fire came uncomfortably close
15 to the building structures. And so their management plan
16 will help reduce that wildfire risk in the future. Next
17 slide, please.

18 The Northern Chumash Tribal Council is seeking
19 support for the broader inclusion of Indigenous ways of
20 knowing into management decisions for a new federal
21 national marine sanctuary, the Chumash Heritage National
22 Marine Sanctuary. This project will support efforts for
23 relationship building, knowledge sharing, education and
24 training, and community participation in the management
25 engagement and research of our oceans.

1 These opportunities are needed for equitable
2 inclusion of indigenous knowledge, the knowledge of local
3 marginalized communities, and traditional ecological
4 knowledge. And the image here is showing the proposed
5 Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in red, which
6 will connect and protect the area between the Monterey Bay
7 National Marine Sanctuary to the north, and the Channel
8 Islands National Marine Sanctuary to the south. Next
9 slide, please.

10 The purpose of this project with the Karuk tribe
11 is to bring Karuk traditional ecological knowledge into the
12 restoration of native food sources and landscapes that have
13 been altered by climate change impacts such as wildfire.

14 There are two important components of their work.
15 The first involves gathering and sharing traditional
16 ecological knowledge from tribal elders and cultural
17 practitioners. And the second includes developing a native
18 foods plant nursery at the existing Karuk farm to support
19 long term native food restoration efforts. Examples of
20 foods that may be chosen for planting include Indian
21 potatoes, elderberries, native blackberries, and sugar
22 pine. Next slide, please.

23 This project with Pala Band of Mission Indians
24 will provide tribal communities with climate change
25 resilience planning for extreme heat. This pilot project

1 will modify and integrate a well-established mechanism for
2 assessing climate related risks. Call the Exposures
3 Impacts and Strategies Inventory Tool into an interactive
4 and easily accessible module within an existing freely and
5 publicly available digital online mapping platform, which
6 is shown here on the slide. Using these tools, tribes will
7 be able to dynamically map critical heat impacts sensitive
8 populations, and adaptive capacities in their communities
9 and also receive customized lists of relevant adaptation
10 strategies. Next slide, please.

11 The large nut from pinyon pine trees is an
12 important traditional food for the Mono Lake Kutzadike
13 Tribe. Drought and wildfires are causing increased
14 mortality of Pinyon pines and the tribe is vulnerable to
15 these climate change induced impacts. This reduces the
16 availability of the pinyon pine nut for food as well as
17 local supply of firewood for home heating.

18 This project is designed to document and better
19 understand traditional stewardship practices within pinyon
20 pine forests, helping to expand indigenous forest
21 stewardship in the Eastern Sierra Nevadas. This project
22 will also incorporate elements of both traditional
23 stewardship and Western science together in forest
24 management. Next slide please.

25 This project with Tamien Nation will implement a

1 Climate and Wildfire Resilience Project at Henry Coe State
2 Park through indigenous cultural burning and land
3 stewardship practices.

4 Activities to achieve this goal include training
5 in tribal cultural fire and land stewardship crews, thereby
6 enhancing tribal capacity for effective fire response and
7 land management. Other important aspects of this project
8 include informing decision makers about tribal priorities
9 and concerns and to revive and preserve indigenous cultural
10 practices on ancestral lands at Henry Coe State Park in
11 collaboration with California State Parks. Next slide,
12 please.

13 In conclusion, staff recommends adoption of the
14 determination that this action is exempt from CEQA and
15 approval of our request to fund these six tribal grants.
16 I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much, Quenby.
18 Let's then go to the public comment.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission now
20 welcomes public comment on Item 14. If you're joining us
21 in the room, you can raise your hand or use the QR code.
22 We're at the Public Advisor's table. And if you're joining
23 via Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on your screen.
24 It looks like an open palm, or press *9 if joining by
25 phone.

1 And I'm just giving that a moment. I'm not
2 seeing any raised hands for this item, so back to you, Vice
3 Chair.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

5 Let's go to Commissioner Gallardo, if you want to
6 speak.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you Vice Chair.

8 So first, I wanted to express gratitude to Quenby
9 for the excellent presentation. Also, to Gabriel Roark who
10 I know is here too, who heads our Tribal Cultural Resources
11 Unit. Elizabeth, who's the Director of the STEP Division
12 couldn't be here. But she did tell me what an excellent
13 job you all are doing. And she wanted to make sure that
14 that was highlighted. And so I wanted to thank you as
15 well.

16 This effort is really important. We're, you
17 know, making an investment in obtaining this incredible
18 knowledge that the tribes have that we haven't always
19 supported in the past. And so I think it's a great gift
20 that we'll be able to have that knowledge to help us
21 improve our processes.

22 So I do have a couple of questions that I just
23 wanted to start on that point. Did you all have any?
24 Okay. And I also wanted to acknowledge Quenby, that you
25 mentioned our partners. Could you repeat our peer agency

1 partners who are working on this?

2 MS. LUM: Sure. It's the Governor's Office of
3 Planning and Research, California Natural Resources Agency,
4 and the California Strategic Growth Council.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you. It's a
6 fantastic collaborative effort, so I appreciate that.

7 And then I also want to acknowledge what a great
8 use of the visuals you had in your presentation, including
9 that map of the location of the tribes who are receiving
10 these grants. I think that's really beneficial for us to
11 be able to see, again that statewide impact. And also the
12 visuals you had for the different types of efforts that the
13 tribes are going to do and there's such an array of efforts
14 going on. And so I'm really excited about that.

15 I do have a couple of specific questions, and I
16 wasn't sure if any of the tribes who are receiving the
17 grants are on, but I'll ask you the question if you're able
18 to answer.

19 So there was one, the tool, the heat mapping tool
20 that the Pala Band of Mission Indians is creating. I
21 wanted to know if that's going to be a publicly accessible
22 tool, or is that solely for the tribe?

23 MS. LUM: No, I believe it's publicly accessible.

24 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Excellent. I think that
25 will be really helpful.

1 And then I believe it was the Tamien Nation,
2 their effort is about hands-on training. I was just
3 curious if there's any more detail about what that would
4 look like.

5 MS. LUM: Right, so they're going to train
6 they're -- it's basically fire and forest management
7 training. So they're having like a local fire department
8 help train their tribal members and firefighting crews.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Oh, okay.

10 MS. LUM: So they can manage the land in the
11 park.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: So the tribal members and
13 then firefighting crews that are part of the tribe, or
14 firefighting crews that are with the state or with the
15 local area?

16 MS. LUM: That I'm not too sure about?

17 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay.

18 MS. LUM: Sorry, yeah I could back to you on
19 that.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: No problem, and no need
21 for apology. I was curious about that. Okay. That's it
22 with my specific questions.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Commissioner Gallardo.

25 Commissioner Monahan?

1 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I just want to say
2 these are great, great package of grants and I just love
3 that they're being led by the tribes. And I think that's
4 just a critical piece to this. So just thank you and the
5 team for pulling together this GFO and getting really great
6 applicants and funding these projects.

7 MS. LUM: Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Yeah. Thank you again,
9 Quenby. Wonderful presentation, and I think to
10 Commissioner Gallardo's points and Commissioner Monahan's
11 points, I think it's amazing to have the partnership with
12 the OPR and tribal led. And I just kind of, you know, want
13 to extend my gratitude to the tribes for taking the time to
14 work with us, to put these grant applications, and willing
15 to share the ages of knowledge to be incorporated into our
16 climate planning. So I'm really looking forward to
17 supporting this.

18 And Commissioner Gallardo, did you have --

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Yes, I just wanted to
20 check to see if Gabriel had any comments.

21 MR. ROARK: I don't.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: You're good, okay.

23 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
24 Gallardo.

25 I think so I would like to close then with --

1 extend gratitude to our tribal communities for their
2 stewardship of the lands for all the ages. So, thanks
3 again.

4 With that, Commissioner Monahan, would you like
5 to move the item?

6 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 14.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

8 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: We'll take the vote.

9 Commissioner Monahan.

10 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

11 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

13 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: I vote aye as well, that moves
14 3-0. Thank you so much.

15 Okay, so we'll move to Item 15, which is the
16 minutes. We are going to be considering only the 15a
17 today. And we'll be hearing 15b at a future meeting. Is
18 there any public comment?

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you. The Commission welcomes
20 public comment on item 15a at this time. And if you're in
21 the room with us, the QR code or raise of hand will let us
22 know you'd like to comment. And if you're on Zoom, please
23 use the raise hand feature on your screen or *9 if joining
24 by phone to let us know.

25 And I'm just giving that a moment. I'm not

1 seeing any raised hands for this item. So back to you,
2 Vice Chair.

3 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Mona.

4 Any Commissioner comments or questions on this
5 item? Commissioner Monahan, would you like to move the
6 item?

7 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: I move to approve Item 15.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I second.

9 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Okay. We'll take the vote.
10 Commissioner Monahan.

11 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Commissioner Gallardo.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you. And my vote aye as
15 well. We go 3-0 on this and the motion passes.

16 Moving on to Item 16, the Lead Commissioner or
17 Presiding Member Reports. Commissioner Gallardo, please go
18 ahead.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you.

20 I wanted to give an update on some changes in my
21 office. First, I'm really grateful to have an
22 Administrative Assistant who's full time. And her name is
23 Rosemary House. I hope you all get to meet her. She's
24 lovely. She's about a week into the job and she's done a
25 fantastic job already and so really grateful to her.

1 And then I also have a new Fellow, so I wanted
2 her to introduce herself. Audrey, if you want to come up
3 to the podium.

4 MS. KORNFELIN: Hello, everyone and thank you for
5 the welcome, Commissioners. My name is Audrey Kornfein and
6 I'm an electrical engineer student at Stanford University.
7 And I'm really happy to be a Schultz Fellow with
8 Commissioner Gallardo this summer. It's a fellowship
9 focused on public service.

10 I'm from Sebastopol, California. My home county
11 is Sonoma County, and so I was heavily affected by the
12 wildfires during my high school years. And so that led me
13 to be interested in climate work. So I'm really happy to
14 be here and learn from everyone here and help participate
15 in the work this summer. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you, Audrey, for
17 joining us.

18 And then I just want to mention too my Chief of
19 Staff, Erik Stokes, is on leave right now. He just
20 welcomed a baby girl in to his family. And so we're really
21 happy for him. Jimmy Qaqundah, who's here in the audience,
22 is Acting Chief of Staff for me. So if anyone needs to get
23 a hold of me, is having trouble getting a hold of me
24 directly, Jimmy is a good go to. Rosemary as well.

25 And then I also wanted to do a special shout out

1 to a team that doesn't always get recognized. That's the
2 Renewables Portfolio Standard Team. We are trying to do a
3 lot of work for the Renewables Portfolio Standard to be
4 even better. And so we're focusing in on program and
5 processes. And I wanted to give an example.

6 In early July, the team held a public webinar on
7 the annual RPS verification and compliance reporting
8 process. WREGIS staff also participated in that. This
9 webinar came together really quickly. And it was just
10 impressive to see the team's can-do attitude. Their good
11 spirit. Their collaboration, while working through
12 internal process, content development, and also then also
13 being able to give expert and service-oriented guidance
14 during that webinar.

15 And the team is also developing an informal
16 training and public engagement program that's integrated
17 into the RPS process that will allow for more advanced
18 planning for the content development, improved
19 accessibility, and transparency for the public. All of
20 which is geared towards maximum compliance with the RPS
21 program requirements.

22 I'm really proud of the work they're doing. And
23 I know this is very nuanced, but I wanted to highlight
24 them. And taking a page from Commissioner McAllister's
25 book of calling out people, so not too long of a list, but

1 I do want to warn you. So a few folks.

2 So of course the STEP Director Elizabeth Huber,
3 Deputy Director Sean Simon for their leadership, the RPS
4 Verification Compliance Team who includes Greg Chin, Chris
5 Metzker, Kevin Chou, Chang Vienlouw (phonetic), Grace
6 Jiang, Sophia Bird, Sean Inaba and Fion Wong (phonetic).

7 And then also Hilarie Anderson from STEP. And
8 from Chief Counsel's Office: Josie Crosby, Isaac Serratos,
9 Albert Kim.

10 And then from the Information Technology
11 Department, Chris Peters, Nelson Abilato (phonetic), have a
12 lot of a lot of Carl Campos. (phonetic) And then I'll say
13 the entire PAO Plus (phonetic) team. They didn't mention
14 anyone specifically who but they did mention PAO Plus was
15 very helpful.

16 And then from WREGIS, JB Brander.

17 So again, thank you, for all your hard work, to
18 the RPS team, STEP, CCO, PAO Plus, really appreciate it.
19 And that's it.

20 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Gallardo.

22 Commissioner Monahan.

23 MONAHAN: Yeah, I'm going to be pretty brief.
24 So, Commissioner Gallardo and I were at a ribbon cutting
25 for an EV charger in Calipatria, which is down in Lithium

1 Valley area, Imperial County. And it was a very hot day.
2 And it was really inspirational to see what Comite Civico
3 was able to do in terms of really getting local labor,
4 really highlighting kind of the benefits to the community,
5 and being very laser focused on that.

6 Secretary Yana Garcia was there too, and she made
7 some great remarks. And this was on the heels of an
8 article that came out in "CalMatters" calling Imperial
9 County a charger desert, because there aren't any chargers.
10 And my talking point was like we need to make it actually a
11 charger desert, but flip it on its head where it's actually
12 there are chargers in the desert. It can go either way.

13 I also went to a Transatlantic Decarbonization
14 Summit that the International Council for Clean
15 Transportation was hosting in Canada. Chair Randolph went.

16 And this organization, you may know of it,
17 because they're the ones that uncovered the diesel scandal
18 from VW. They found out that VW was cheating on their
19 emission controls. So and I'm on the board. But it was
20 really interesting to see how much infrastructure was a
21 topic. That that is crossing in Europe and here. We're
22 both facing the same challenges in terms of like, how do we
23 get infrastructure that works. And that's going to help us
24 meet our goals. So it was a good, good conversation.

25 And then the last thing I want to mention is a

1 community meeting that we held with Lacey (phonetic) as our
2 cohost. And focused on how do we accelerate charter
3 deployments in communities like Southeast LA where there
4 aren't a lot of chargers. And there were faith leaders
5 there as well as some folks that were putting EV chargers
6 in. And we were focusing on people who had not received
7 any grants from the Energy Commission. So it was a really
8 good productive conversation and a lot of good food for
9 thought, as we think about what equity means in this
10 context.

11 What else, I'll say one last thing. We visited a
12 site, the ETCommunities which works with also faith leaders
13 in the LA area, a site of a church. And we met with faith
14 leaders there. And they were trying to get EV chargers in
15 their parking lot. But they had to upgrade the panel. And
16 if they were going to upgrade the panel, they wanted to put
17 in air conditioning, because it's hot. And so this idea
18 like okay, we fund chargers. But how do we help
19 communities that have this broader electrification need.
20 You know, what's the role of the utility? What's the role
21 of the state?

22 So I don't have answers, but I just have a lot of
23 questions from those visits.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Monahan.

1 I think I was not here at the last meeting. I
2 just want to use my time to just acknowledge my office
3 team. Jane's here, Roger, Chang, and Mina, for helping me
4 take a vacation, the first vacation in 40 years that was
5 just for a vacation. And so that was great. And I just am
6 incredibly grateful. I had a wonderful time with the
7 family. The kids are growing really fast, five and eight.
8 So it's good to have some solid time and them seeing all
9 the building progress that I have with cardboard boxes.
10 That was amazing. Get some credit from my son, which was
11 great. So I just wanted to say to say thanks to my team
12 for facilitating that.

13 Just quickly on the core areas of our office. So
14 as we heard on the grid reliability we're kind of, I think,
15 hopefully towards the tail end of the tightness in the grid
16 with the heatwave and all. Again, big thanks to CAISO and
17 the interagency teams to keeping everything very quiet,
18 because everything has been very stable, and continue to
19 kind of closely watch that.

20 SB 100 continues to make progress. Roger from
21 our office is the Lead Advisor on that. We continue to
22 coordinate and make sure we are working towards developing
23 the SB 100 Report to be launched next year.

24 Me and Commissioner Gallardo's Office, we are
25 beginning to kind of have conversations on how to move

1 forward the non-energy impacts proceeding. We had some
2 good discussions. I'm hoping to launch a kickoff meeting
3 or workshop later this year.

4 And those are the main topics we're working on.
5 Apart from petroleum, CCO, thanks again. As of today, we
6 are continuing to look good on the gas prices. But we have
7 about three months to go here. So we'll continue to watch
8 carefully. And, you know, staying cautiously optimistic on
9 all fronts.

10 So with that let me see if -- Yeah, go ahead,
11 Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: I wanted to make one more
13 comment, to express my gratitude to a few people. So
14 Gaylene Tompkins, Jan Mitchell, and Victoria Sandoval have
15 been invaluable to me as I was without a full-time
16 assistant. And so I want to express gratitude to them for
17 putting up with me, for helping me out, and helping my team
18 as well. They were essential in enabling us to have some
19 stability while we were going through this transition. So
20 a big thank you to them and also to the folks that also
21 enabled them to support me: the Executive Office, EAD,
22 etcetera. So again, thank you so much, everybody for that
23 support.

24 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: So then thanks, Commissioner
25 Gallardo.

1 With that I think we can move to Item 17,
2 Executive Director's Report.

3 MS. MARTIN-GALLARDO: Nothing to report.

4 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thanks, Jen.

5 To Item 18, Public Advisor's Report.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Vice Chair. A couple of
7 announcements from our team.

8 So the next CEC-CPUC Disadvantaged Community
9 Advisory Group meeting is on July 19th. And among other
10 items, we'll get a presentation from CEC on the Summer
11 Reliability Outlook. And they're also going to consider
12 revisions to their equity framework that guides their work
13 and also informs the Energy Commission and the CPUC's is
14 work as well.

15 And then I also wanted to pass it over to Sierra
16 Graves, who is our Director of Tribal Affairs and Tribal
17 Liaison for some additional remarks.

18 MS. GRAVES: Thank you, Mona.

19 I have the honor of thanking the tribes that
20 participated with us in the offshore wind process. So on
21 behalf of The Office of the Public Advisor Energy, Equity,
22 and Tribal Affairs, along with the Siting, Transmission and
23 Environmental Protection Division, we would like to extend
24 our sincere gratitude to the California Native American
25 tribes who engaged and consulted with us on the Offshore

1 Wind Strategic Plan.

2 You showed up. You kept showing up to listening
3 sessions and in-person intergovernmental roundtables, and
4 biweekly tribal working groups. And in those spaces you
5 pushed us to do better for all California Native American
6 tribes. And the report's really better because of all of
7 your contributions. So we want to thank all of the tribes
8 that participated for sharing their expertise and time with
9 us. Thank you.

10 MS. BADIE: And that's all for our office. Thank
11 you.

12 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you so much, Mona.
13 Item 19, Chief Counsel's Report.

14 MS. DECARLO: Nothing to report. Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR GUNDA: Thank you, Lisa.

16 I think just checking with the other
17 Commissioners, anything else? Nope. It looks good.
18 Thanks, everybody. The meeting is adjourned.

19 (The Business Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of August, 2024.



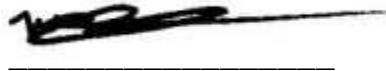
MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of August, 2024.



Myra Severtson
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-852