

**DOCKETED**

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## **Increase funding for projects considering the COL**

I am hopeful that the currently provided rebate value estimates are at least somewhat increased than what is presently provided in Table 11: HEEHRA Phase II.

Many of us have been waiting for quite some time and deferring upgrades and repairs in preparation for this program. However, the rollout has been a fair bit delayed. Over time, expenses increase, especially as demand will pick up once the program is live. For example, an upgrade of an older home's electrical system done with permits from 100 amp service to the required 200 amp service, will cost easily and significantly over \$4,000.00 (especially if any of the panel(s) need to be moved or upgraded).

Second, please provide clarity on the income tools and calculations. Will income be used from the calendar year in which the upgrades are done or would income be used from the prior calendar year? What if an individual starts the upgrades at the end of December 2025, and completes it in January 2026. Is it the start date of the project that counts or the end date? This is important because of determining which calendar year's income levels are used.

Third, the funding allocation between various parts of the states seem a bit arbitrary. There are going to be significantly more homes that will require upgrades in the Bay Area and Southern California areas compared to Northern California, and the inland areas. Why not just allow for a first-come first serve system so that certain parts of California are not left out if their funding allocation is gone?

Fourth, will there be specifics as to each "equipment or appliance per household" (Table 11) means? For example, there is a category for "electric wiring." What exactly constitutes "electrical wiring" for purposes of qualifying for the rebate?

Fifth, please make it easy to search for approved contractors or allow for our preferred contractors to easily join the program. The issue here is that if there's only a limited number of approved contractors, and they are geographically limited, then when the program goes live, they will likely be booked out. If the funds are then limited, we may not have our repairs covered under rebate by the time that the contractor is able to get to our project. Alternatively, allow for non-participating licensed contractors doing permitted work to still qualify for the rebates if they abide by the program specifications and provide appropriate documentation (which will need to be very clearly detailed) for our submissions.

Sixth, is there any indication that Phase II rebates will apply retroactively? Is there something that the State of California can do it allow for this despite the federal guidelines not explicitly stating that retroactive work would qualify?

Lastly, there should be a simplified and easy to access FAQ for these programs. For example, a common question I have been seeing is that Phase I requires a heat pump installation to qualify for a rebate. However, a heat pump is not required for Phase II to still utilize the other equipment rebates, correct? This information should be centralized somewhere including comparisons between the programs. Based on the rebate amounts, a heat pump would not financially viable at this time, but the other smaller upgrades would be. That is why I am waiting for Phase II to go live.

Thank you.