

DOCKETED

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California Energy Commission **Business Meeting Agenda**

March 17, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In-person at:

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

Remote Access via Zoom™

<https://zoom.us/> Meeting ID: **863 3538 9460** Passcode: **energy**

Remote participation instructions are below, after the agenda items.

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

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

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

1. Public Comment.

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

2. Agency Announcements.

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

3. Consent Calendar.

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

- a. Clean Transportation Program Policy Committee. Proposed order appointing Commissioner Nancy Skinner as the sole and presiding member of the Clean Transportation Program Policy Committee. As the presiding member of this Policy Committee, Commission Skinner will also serve as the presiding member of the Clean Transportation Program Advisory Committee. Contact: Benjamin Tuggy
- b. Local Ordinances for Contra Costa County, City of Cupertino, and City of Burlingame. Proposed resolutions finding the applications submitted by Contra Costa County, City of Cupertino, and City of Burlingame meet the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 25402.1(h)(2) and Section 10-106 of the 2022 Energy Code. Pursuant to these requirements, the CEC finds the local ordinances are estimated to save more energy than the 2022 Energy Code and the corresponding county and cities have adopted at a public meeting a determination that the local ordinances are cost-effective. Contact: Anushka Raut
 - i. Contra Costa County. The local ordinance introduces additional electric readiness requirements and source energy compliance margins for all newly constructed buildings by building type.
 - ii. City of Cupertino. The local ordinance introduces additional electric readiness requirements, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) hot water temperature requirements for nonresidential buildings, and source energy compliance margins for all newly constructed buildings by building type.
 - iii. City of Burlingame. The local ordinance introduces additional electric readiness requirements, HVAC hot water temperature requirements for nonresidential buildings, and source energy compliance margins for all newly constructed buildings by building type.
- c. Materials Research LLC. Proposed resolution adopting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings for Materials Research LLC's geothermal brine pretreatment and metal recovery project, and approving grant agreement EPC-24-043 with Materials Research LLC. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Chuck Gentry
 - i. CEQA Findings. Findings that, based on the lead agency Imperial County's Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Notice of Determination filed for the Hell's Kitchen geothermal power plant and mineral extraction and processing facility, the work under the proposed agreement presents no new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts beyond those already considered and mitigated by the lead agency.
 - ii. Materials Research LLC. Proposed approval of agreement EPC-24-043 with Materials Research LLC for a \$3,683,950 grant to develop a geothermal brine treatment process based on metal sulfide precipitation. This new process will remove interfering minerals to enable direct lithium extraction and allow the

recovery of valuable critical minerals like zinc and manganese from the geothermal brine. This technology has the potential to lower both the capital and operational costs of brine management at geothermal plants.

- d. National Wind Technology Consortium, Inc. dba National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium (NOWRDC). Proposed resolution reapproving agreement 300-24-001 with NOWRDC for a one-year, Public Sponsor Membership for \$30,000, including the use of the CEC logo in membership advertisements. This item increases the contract amount from \$25,000 to \$30,000. NOWRDC is a nationally focused, not-for-profit organization collaborating with industry, state, and federal government on research and development activities to reduce the levelized-cost of offshore wind energy in the United States while maximizing other economic and social benefits. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Katherine Greenwald
- e. The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus. Proposed resolution approving amendment 1 to agreement 600-22-009 with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis Campus (UC Davis) to increase the contract by \$220,400, add additional tasks to the scope of work (SOW), change terms and conditions to reflect obligations related to the modified SOW and updated legal requirements, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This amendment will increase the budget due to increased costs and to add additional scope and budget to conduct an electric vehicle (EV) charger reliability survey on behalf of the CEC. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Dustin Schell
- f. Marin Clean Energy (MCE). Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-040 with MCE for a \$5,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will establish a market for flexible energy resources that benefits the grid, communities, and industry. MCE will expand their existing Distributed Energy Management System platform to support the integration of new resource types into the market and across all MCE jurisdictions, prioritizing disadvantaged and low-income communities. MCE will work with its 37 member communities to demonstrate these benefits in Solano and Contra Costa Counties, and the project is expected to provide at least 1 megawatt (MW) of aggregated load flexibility. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Brad Williams
- g. Heirloom Carbon Technologies, Inc. Proposed resolution adopting CEQA findings for Heirloom Carbon Technologies, Inc.'s demonstration of a pre-commercial, electrified thermal reactor with integrated lime hydration for use in a direct air capture project, and approving grant agreement EPC-24-021 with Heirloom Carbon Technologies, Inc. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Maryam Haddad
- i. CEQA Findings. Finding that, based on the lead agency City of Tracy's 2012 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), 2024 Addendum to the Tracy Desalination and Green Energy Project MND (Addendum), required mitigation measures, and Resolution No. 2012-75, the proposed project presents no new or substantially more severe environmental impacts beyond those

already considered.

- ii. Heirloom Carbon Technologies, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-021 with Heirloom Carbon Technologies, Inc. for a \$6,364,788 grant for the design and build-out of a pre-commercial electric reactor (calciner) and tower with an in-line hydration system that will be integrated with an operational direct air capture facility in Tracy.
- h. 2025 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Forms and Instructions – Gas Demand and Rate Forecasting. Proposed resolution approving the 2025 IEPR Forms and Instructions for submitting gas demand and rate forecasting information. Title 20, Section 1345(c) of the CCR requires gas utilities to submit a demand forecast according to CEC forms and instructions. The regulations also require gas utilities and interstate pipeline companies that deliver gas to locations in California or to the California border to submit a 10-year forecast of energy prices. Information collected under these forms and instructions will support the 2025 IEPR and improve natural gas demand forecasting. Contact: Jason Orta

4. Information Item – CEC Licensing Authority Pursuant to AB 205.

This informational item is to present the CEC staff role and responsibilities in an environmental and engineering review of an energy generating facility under Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (Stats. 2022, ch. 61). AB 205 expanded the CEC’s licensing authority to include the Opt-In Certification Program, providing developers an optional pathway to submit clean and renewable project applications, facilitating faster deployment. The Opt-In Certification Program requires the CEC to complete in 270 days an environmental impact report under CEQA, certify compliance with requirements for community benefits agreements, project labor agreements, and net economic benefits, and ensure consistency with all laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) under the Warren-Alquist Act (Stats. 1974, ch. 276). Contact: Elizabeth Huber (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

5. Petition for Rulemaking on Television Data Reporting.

Consideration of a petition for rulemaking under CCR, title 20, section 1221. The petition was filed on February 26, 2025 by the Consumer Technology Association requesting a rulemaking to reduce the data fields required to be reported to the CEC for televisions, which are located in Table X of the CCR, title 20, section 1606. Contact: Peter Strait (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

6. Order Instituting Informational Proceeding (OIIP) – Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty.

Proposed OIIP on Tribal Affairs and Tribal Energy Sovereignty. In alignment with the CEC Resolution Committing to Support Tribal Energy Sovereignty (No. 23-0302-09), this OIIP will create a statewide engagement forum for CEC and California Native American tribes on a variety of topics, including: tribal cultural resources for clean energy development, best practices for developing energy grants and working with tribes on energy projects, tribal energy economy, tribal energy equity indicators, and other topics. Through this OIIP, the CEC will also consult with California Native American tribes on the development of a Policy Supporting Tribal Energy

Sovereignty and revisions to CEC's Tribal Consultation Policy. Contact: Sierra Graves (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

7. Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program Guidelines (Docket No. 22-RENEW-01).

Proposed resolution adopting the DSGS Program Guidelines, Fourth Edition, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. The DSGS Program, created by AB 205 (Stats. 2022, ch. 61) and expanded by AB 209 (Stats. 2022, ch. 251), provides incentives to reduce customer net load during extreme events to help grid reliability. The DSGS Program Guidelines, Fourth Edition, refine and clarify requirements to improve program effectiveness, include a new virtual power plant participation option, and add provisions to expand participation from clean resources. Contact: Ashley Emery (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

8. Lodi Energy Center (LEC) – Petition to Amend (Docket No. 08-AFC-10C).

Proposed order to approve the petition to amend the CEC's certification of the LEC Project, by modifying and adding new Air Quality (AQ) Conditions of Certification (COCs), and adopting staff's recommended findings that the project changes including modified emissions limits will not result in significant air quality, public health, or greenhouse gas impacts on the environment. The staff assessment analyzes the proposed efficiency upgrades to the combustion turbine generator equipment that will provide a 15 MW increase in electricity generation during high ambient temperature conditions and concludes that, with the addition of new or amended AQ COCs incorporating the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District permit changes, the effect of the project changes on the environment would be less than significant. Contact: Ashley Gutierrez (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

9. Northern California Power Agency.

Proposed resolution approving CEQA findings for Northern California Power Agency's purchase, installation, and reported performance of upgrades to improve the efficiency and aerodynamic performance of the natural gas fired, combined cycle natural gas power facility in Lodi, California, and approving grant agreement DBA-24-005 with the Northern California Power Agency. (DEBA Funding) Contact: Pamela Doughman (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. CEQA findings. Based on the environmental assessment and findings adopted for the Lodi Energy Center's Petition to Amend under the CEC's certified regulatory program (Docket No. 08-AFC-10C), the activities funded by the grant agreement will not have any significant environmental impacts and no further environmental review is necessary.
- b. Northern California Power Agency. Proposed resolution approving agreement DBA-24-005 for \$7,043,128 for efficiency upgrades to increase the hot-weather power plant output rating by approximately 15 MW, and to make the incremental capacity available during extreme events on a day-ahead and real-time basis to the host California Balancing Authority for a term of five years from the commercial online date of the upgraded power plant.

10. Industrial Carbon Dioxide Utilization for Value Added Products – GFO-23-502.

This solicitation sought to fund carbon capture and utilization technology demonstrations targeting industrial emissions and reduced fossil gas usage. Two agreements were proposed for funding for a total of \$6,100,000. The second proposed award will be presented at a future business meeting. (Gas R&D Funding) Contact: Paty De La Torre (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Maas Energy Works LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-24-004 with Maas Energy Works LLC for a \$4,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this project is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund the capture of biogenic carbon dioxide emissions from industrial dairy manure digesters to generate carbonic acid. This product will be used in irrigation water for soil acidity control in farms in the Central Valley.

11. County of Ventura.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-042 with the County of Ventura for a \$2,999,458 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund electrified retrofit measures in approximately 100 residences in Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties and assess the impacts of consolidated and separate retrofit measures on air quality, comfort, and other non-energy metrics to provide guidance on how non-energy benefits can be integrated into the decision making process for the replacement of gas-fueled equipment with electric. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Maninder Thind (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

12. California Clean Energy Fund DBA CALCEF Ventures.

Proposed resolution approving eight grants totaling \$4,000,000 from the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program's California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development (CalSEED) Initiative 2024 Prototype Award Competition, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. These "Prototype Awards" were competitively selected via a business plan competition where CalSEED entrepreneurs that had previously received a \$150,000 "Concept Award" were evaluated on the technical and commercial potential of their technology. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Lindsey Fransen (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. ThermoShade Solutions Inc., Passive Heat-Absorbing Shade Technology, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to install a high-tech passive cooling shade panel at two pilot sites that creates a shady space that feels up to 20°F cooler than under a basic awning.
- b. Sunchem, Inc., Metal-Organic Framework-Based Critical Metal Recovery System, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to further develop a low-cost precision nano filtration device that can recycle metals like copper and gold that are critical to clean energy applications from any complex water mixtures, but primarily those from e-waste, at a lower cost.
- c. Project K Energy, Inc., Advanced Potassium-Ion Battery Storage, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to demonstrate potassium-ion batteries in a single layer

pouch cell form factor and optimize design of a multi-layer pouch cell form factor.

- d. Westwood Aerogel Co., Scalable Aerogel Insulation Manufacturing Process, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to design and build a first-generation manufacturing line using a novel manufacturing process to automate the process and increase the rate of manufacture for aerogel insulation material.
- e. RCAM Technologies, Inc. dba Sperra, Optimizing Subsea Energy Storage for Offshore Wind Integration, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to advance an energy storage technology that can be easily co-located with future offshore wind development.
- f. Activated Energy, LLC., Compressed CO2 Energy Storage System for Urban Grid Resilience and Renewables Adoption, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop a prototype long duration energy storage system comprising high- and low-pressure CO2 storage tanks, compressors, scroll expanders and associated plumbing for gas transfer.
- g. ExPost Technology, Inc., Integrated Cathode Material Regeneration and Purification for Battery Reuse, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to set up an end-to-end direct recycling line to recycle and recover cathode active materials at the scale of 10Kg/batch.
- h. Aepnus Technology Inc., Advancing Circular Chemical Recycling for Battery Supply Chains with Scaled Electrolysis Systems, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to scale up by fourfold an electrolyzer pilot system designed to recycle a common chemical waste from battery manufacturing back into valuable reagents, such as sulfuric acid and caustic soda.

13. Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, and Workforce Training and Development – GFO-23-607.

This solicitation sought to fund projects that will accelerate zero-emission vehicle adoption among California Native American tribes by funding EV charging infrastructure, EV infrastructure planning, and EV workforce training and development. This item includes three projects totaling \$5,500,256. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Pilar Magaña (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Paséki Strategies Corporation. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-007 with Paséki Strategies Corporation (Paséki) for a \$1,492,144 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. Paséki, a tribally owned enterprise of the Fernandéño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, will install 8 Level 2 EV charger ports and 6 EV direct current fast charger ports at Red Earth Casino and 6 Level 2 EV charger ports at the Torres Martinez Tribal Administration Office in Thermal.
- b. Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-008 with Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California (Barona Band of Mission Indians Reservation) for a

\$3,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will install two EV direct current fast charger ports and 84 Level 2 EV charger ports for community use at key facilities on the Barona Band of Mission Indians Reservation; perform EV infrastructure development and fleet transition planning for the Barona Band of Mission Indians Reservation and up to 24 other tribes located in Southern California; and establish a workforce training program providing marketable job skills related to EV infrastructure installation.

- c. Yurok Tribe. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-009 with Yurok Tribe for a \$1,008,112 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will expand EV capacity on the Yurok Reservation to support the Yurok Tribal Transit Services program by developing a tribal EV infrastructure blueprint that identifies feasible charging sites, installing four EV direct current fast charger ports and one Level 2 EV charger port at Tulley Creek, and increasing tribal workforce capacity to operate and maintain the charging infrastructure.

14. County of Los Angeles.

Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-010 with County of Los Angeles for a \$3,112,921 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund the installation of at least 220 Level 2 EV charger ports and at least 10 EV direct current fast charger ports across approximately 18 Los Angeles County locations. This project will support the County of Los Angeles' goal to expand their EV fleet by 2029. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Kyle Corrigan (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

15. Lead Commissioner and Presiding Member Reports.

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

16. Executive Director's Report.

17. Public Advisor's Report.

18. Chief Counsel's Report.

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

- iii. Ernest Vardanyan v. City of Burbank, et al. (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 24NNCV04047).
- iv. Interlink Products International, Inc., v. California Energy Commission (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000001)
- c. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), Commissioners may adjourn to closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in the following proceedings the state body is required by law to conduct:
 - i. Morton Bay Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-01
 - ii. Elmore North Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-02
 - iii. Black Rock Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-03
- d. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e), the CEC may also discuss any judicial or administrative proceeding that was formally initiated after this agenda was published; or determine whether facts and circumstances exist that warrant the initiation of litigation, or that constitute a significant exposure to litigation against the CEC, which might include personnel matters.

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

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

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