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Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)

Annual Report Summary

In early 2018 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission jointly approved members of a new advisory group consisting of representatives of disadvantaged communities who will provide advice on state programs proposed to achieve clean energy and pollution reduction. The creation of the advisory group fulfills a requirement in Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015.

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group was created to advise both commissions on how programs can effectively reach and benefit communities burdened by pollution and socio-economic challenges, including rural and tribal communities. Program areas include renewable energy, energy efficiency, and transportation electrification.

The members represent the diverse nature of disadvantaged communities throughout the state, reflecting the different rural and urban, cultural and ethnic, and geographic regions. The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group members are:

- Stephanie Chen, Energy and Telecommunications Policy Director at the Greenlining Institute
- Kevin Day, Tribal Chairman of the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council, who was chosen to be the Advisory Group's tribal representative by the Governor's Tribal Liaison and was later replaced by Jana Ganion.
- Stan Greschner, Chief Policy and Business Development Officer at GRID Alternatives
- Angela Islas, Community Health Worker at Central California Asthma Collaborative • Roger Lin, Senior Attorney at the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment
- Adriano Martinez, Staff Attorney at Earthjustice
- Jodi Pincus, Executive Director at the Rising Sun Energy Center
- Andres Ramirez, Clean Energy Director at Pacoima Beautiful
- Waudieur Rucker-Hughes, President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Riverside Branch (Ms. Rucker-Hughes passed away on July 13, 2018). The position will be filled.
- Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director and Attorney at the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Tyrone Roderick Williams, Director of Development at Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and Director of the Sacramento Promise Zone.

The charter states that the Advisory Group may hold meetings on key issues related to the design and implementation of clean energy programs, with respect to potential benefits and impacts in disadvantaged communities. The charter also requires that the Advisory Group shall submit an annual report listing the SB 350 programs they have reviewed and providing written feedback to the CPUC and Energy Commission on the effectiveness and usefulness of those clean energy programs on disadvantaged communities. The Advisory Group will also report summaries of its meetings and may choose to provide written recommendations or advice to the CPUC and Energy Commission in addition to its annual report.

Since the DACAG has been meeting it has established the following priorities and taken the following actions:

5 initial priorities

- EPIC program (in particular pursuant to AB 523)
 - Energy Storage
 - DAC-Net Metering
 - SJV Affordable Energy Proceedings
 - Climate Adaptation proceedings
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- The California Energy Commission provided Equity Indicators in SB 350 Low-Income Barriers Study. The DACAG identified the Equity Indicators as a critical tool and prioritized further development of the indicators among the DACAG's priorities.
 - The DACAG's provided proposed changes to CPUC's Environmental Justice/Social Justice Action Plan
 - The DACAG provided recommendation to the e California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission to aid in the implementation of AB 617
 - The DACAG provided a letter with recommendations regarding the CPUC proceeding R.15-03-010, examining affordable energy options in San Joaquin Valley communities.

Summary of the "Equity Framework" for Annual Report

The purpose of the Advisory Group pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 400(g), is to advise the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) regarding the development, implementation, and impacts of proposed and existing programs related to the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (also known as Senate Bill 350) in disadvantaged communities.

The Advisory Group adopted an Equity Framework on September 28, 2018, which will guide the activities and advocacy of the Advisory Group to the Commissions and other state agencies. This Equity Framework is intended to guide the Advisory Group as it moves forward in discussing and commenting on various proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC ensuring that access and adequate resources reach the implementation stage and benefit communities in a meaningful and measurable way.

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group will work with the Commissions, and other the State agencies as appropriate, to ensure the Equity Framework is applied across all climate related policies, bills, proceedings, requests for proposals, and programs to ensure that equity is front and center when considering any climate investment/intervention in the State.

The Equity Framework is attached to this report as Exhibit XX.

Workgroup 1: EJSJ Plan Work Report

Process

Workgroup One consists of 3 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) members: Jodi Pincus, President and Executive Director of Rising Sun Center for Opportunity (Rising Sun), Angela Islas, Policy Advocate for the Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC) and Andres Ramirez from Pacoima Beautiful. At the September 28th DACAG teleconference meeting, Workgroup One was tasked to work with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the Environmental Justice Social Justice (EJSJ) Plan, utilize and incorporate the DACAG's Equity Framework to edit and strengthen the plan for future adoption.

During the month of October 2018, Workgroup One's first task was to - within the group - review and incorporate the DACAG's Equity Framework to the CPUC's EJSJ plan to present at the October 30th in-person DACAG meeting. Each member was given a one-to two-day timeframe to look over the document and incorporate the Equity Framework. The task was completed and Workgroup One presented an update of the current integration of the Equity Framework to the CPUC's EJSJ Plan at the October 30th in-person meeting.

After the October 30th in-person meeting, Workgroup One was tasked to share the CPUC's EJSJ Plan with the DACAG members to provide additional edits, comments and/or suggestions to improve the draft CPUC goals and objectives, as well as address if the DACAG's Equity Framework had been integrated into the plan effectively. The Advisory Group was given a two-week timeframe to provide feedback to the workgroup. One week before the November 30th teleconference meeting, Workgroup One members revised and refurbished the CPUC's EJSJ Plan to later have it be submitted to the CPUC's Public Adviser to the DACAG web page for public view. At the November 30th teleconference meeting, Workgroup One presented alongside with Advisory Member Phoebe Seaton's Leadership Counsel Policy Advocate, Leslie Martinez on reviewing the edits, comments and suggestions to the Advisory Group, CPUC staff members and California Energy Commission (CEC) staff members. There was a motion for a vote to adopt the edits to the CPUC's EJSJ Plan - motion approved 7-0. After the November 30th teleconference meeting, the document was passed on to the CPUC to incorporate the comments and present it to the advisory group at the next in-person meeting scheduled for January 25th, 2019.

High Level Recommendations

Workgroup One came up with several recommendations to include in the CPUC's EJSJ plan. Below are high level recommendations:

- Incorporate the DACAG Equity Framework into the CPUC's EJSJ plan and incorporate identified changes and edits to the plan
 - Include the DACAG Equity Framework's definition of Disadvantaged Communities as part of the section of the plan that defines EJSJ Communities
 - Increase the number of defined goals from 8-10 to include changes to the goal language and add two new goals highlighted below (please note that more substantive changes were made to the body of each goal redlined in the EJSJ plan). Below are the recommended goals and language:
 - Goal 1: Use CPUC's planning, permitting, and regulatory role to advance social and environmental justice goals
 - Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit EJSJ communities, especially to improve local air quality, address negative health impact, financial benefits, economic and workforce development, and consumer protection
 - Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for EJSJ communities
 - Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - Goal 6: Increase economic benefit to and financial benefits to EJSJ Communities
 - Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities in order for EJSJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC's decision-making process
 - Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for EJSJ communities
 - Goal 7: Promote economic and workforce development opportunities in EJSJ communities
 - Goal 8: Promote access and education ensuring that EJSJ communities will benefit from and participate in CPUC programs and proceedings
 - Goal 9: Improve training and staff development related to environmental and social justice issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction
 - Goal 10: Monitor the CPUC's environmental and social justice efforts to ensure that they are achieving their objectives
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