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Energy Commission's Barriers Study Recommendations
Report out on SB 350 Implementation Progress
July 2019

Recommendations from the Energy Commission's Barriers Study Part A: Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Small Business Contracting Opportunities			
Barriers Study Recommendation	**Lead(s)**	**Support**	
1. The State should establish a task force to facilitate coordination of all state agencies administering energy, water, resilience, housing, and low-emission transportation infrastructure programs for low-income customers and disadvantaged communities.	Governor's Office		**Current Status: Completed** In May 2017, the Governor's Office established an interagency task force to implement priority recommendations from both the Energy Commission's (CEC) Barriers Study and California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Final Guidance Document. The task force was comprised of over 15 state agencies implementing clean energy and transportation programs, as well as related disciplines including but not limited to public health, water, and housing. The task force met through the end of 2018 to ensure continued coordination across agencies. **Next Steps:** None.
1d) Develop an action plan on improving opportunities for energy efficiency, renewable energy, demand response, energy storage, and electric vehicle infrastructure for multifamily housing.	CEC	CPUC CARB CSD HCD SWRCB	**Current Status: Completed** The CEC, in coordination with five principle partner agencies, developed the Clean Energy in Low-Income Multifamily Buildings Action Plan (CLIMB Action Plan) which identifies early actions to improve existing programs in the multifamily sector and lays the foundation to develop long-term solutions. The final CLIMB Action plan was adopted in November 2018. In June 2019, CEC launched the Multifamily component of the Building Energy Benchmarking Program. **Next Steps:** CEC continues to engage with state partners on current multifamily-related program activities (CLIMB Strategy 4.3.1). CEC will Implement multifamily building energy benchmarking activities, including outreach and education to multifamily building owners (CLIMB Strategy 2.1.3).

Note: Highlighted rows indicate priority recommendations.

2. The State should act to enable the economic advantages of community solar to be readily accessible to low-income and disadvantaged populations across California.	CPUC	CSD	**Current Status: Ongoing** CPUC Pursuant to Assembly Bill 327 (Perea), Stats. 2013, ch. 611, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) developed several specific alternatives designed to increase adoption of renewable generation for low-income customers and in disadvantaged communities. In June 2018, the CPUC adopted three additional programs to promote solar services in disadvantaged communities (D.18-06-027). These programs will collectively work to promote the installation of solar energy that will serve primarily low-income customers in disadvantaged communities. One of them is a community solar program. The other two are noted under Recommendation #6. Community Solar Green Tariff Program (CSGT): allows low-income customers in disadvantaged communities to benefit from the development of solar generation projects located in or near their communities, resulting in a 20% discount on their overall bill. The Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) filed their implementation plans in August 2018. A number of parties raised issues with the implementation plans and suggested improvements. The CPUC addressed these issues and the implementation plans for the CSGT program were approved with modifications in Resolution E-4999. (May 2019). The IOUs have updated their CSGT tariffs to comply with the direction provided in the Resolution. **Next Steps:** The IOUs will submit marketing, education, and outreach plans, 2019-2020 program budgets, and project solicitation documents in August 2019 for CPUC review. Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) who serve residential customers in DACs are eligible to offer their own CSGT programs, as long as they are consistent with all

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			program requirements. The CPUC will host a stakeholder workshop later this summer to discuss CCA implementation issues. CSD **COMMUNITY SOLAR PILOT PROGRAM:** In June 2019, the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) awarded $4.43 million in funding for two community solar projects that provide benefits to low-income households and will test prototype delivery models. The Community Solar Pilot Program, part of California Climate Investments, aims to make the benefits of solar energy more available to eligible low-income households, lower residents' energy bills and provide co-benefits to communities, including economic and workforce development. Selected projects are required to be operational and delivering benefits by June 2021. The selected projects are: Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians Empowering Communities GRID Alternatives Inland Empire in Riverside will be awarded approximately $2.05 M to install a 994 kilowatt (kW) direct current (DC) ground-mounted solar array in partnership with the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Anza Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AEC). AEC will assign credits to subscribers on their monthly bills that will reduce household usage costs by up to 50 percent. The system will be sited on Santa Rosa Tribal lands and will benefit approximately 38 homes on those lands and additional 150-250 low-income households within the cooperative's boundaries. Richmond Port Community Solar Project GRID Alternatives Bay Area in Oakland will be awarded approximately $2.38 M to install a 989 kW DC solar array at the Port in Richmond, CA. The project will benefit approximately 155 low-income households in disadvantaged communities in Richmond. The project will generate revenue from a feed-in-tariff offered by Marin Clean Energy and utilize an off-bill mechanism to distribute benefits.

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			Next Steps: The selected projects are estimated to be completed by the first quarter of 2021.
3. The CEC, CPUC, and CSD should partner with the California Labor and Workforce Agency, the Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges, and other agencies, as well as consult with employers, the UC Berkeley Labor Center and the relevant trade unions and community-based organizations, to strategize and track progress of workforce, community, and clean energy goals.	CLWA/CWDB		**Current Status: Ongoing** Research – The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) hosted 9 consultations in 2018 to address labor market strategies for achieving the state's climate targets in a way that benefits all Californians. Feedback gathered informed the development of a wide-ranging state plan for economic and workforce development in a carbon-neutral economy (i.e., AB 398 report). Report reviews, at a high level, job growth, job quality, job access, and training in the Energy sector of the Scoping Plan, and covers both renewable energy and energy efficiency. Interagency collaborations – CWDB and CPUC are beginning to explore ways to integrate economic and workforce development in clean energy programs, following release of the CPUC's Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan. Field Investments – CWDB is developing RFA for High Road Construction Careers initiative with SB 1 funds, based on successful model of multi-craft pre-apprenticeship with Prop 39 funds (2014-2018). **Next Steps:** Report is under review in the Governor's Office and will be available later in 2019. Following the report release, CWDB will continue to pursue an interagency strategy to implement key recommendations. CWDB will begin making investments in workforce partnerships that will advance an equity agenda across climate-impacted industries, including accessible apprenticeship pathways in energy and transportation sectors. This includes $30M (from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) in FY 2019-20) for CWDB's two main initiatives under its Equity, Climate, and Jobs agenda, High Road Construction Careers and High Road Training Partnerships.

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4. The State should continue developing a series of energy upgrade financing pilot programs to evaluate a variety of models to improve access and participation of low-income customers, including those in disadvantaged communities. The pilot programs would include the cost of health and safety measures required to accomplish energy efficiency upgrades.	CAEATFA	CEC CPUC	**Current Status: Ongoing** The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) is implementing financing pilots for energy efficiency retrofits in the investor-owned utility territories at the request of the CPUC. They are designed to lower the cost and expand access of private capital financing across the residential, affordable multifamily and small business/commercial markets to help remove the upfront barrier of capital. In 2017, the California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing (CHEEF) pilot programs were streamlined to remove structural barriers and address challenges. The Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) Assistance Program was the first of the pilot programs to launch in 2016. The REEL Program is designed to help homeowners and renters access lower cost financing for energy efficiency projects by reducing risk to participating lenders. The program has 7 active lenders and more than $20 million available in loan loss reserve funds to help participating lenders mitigate energy efficiency loan risk. The program is leveraging nearly $7 million in private capital in this early phase, with 52% of borrowers located in low-moderate income census tracts. In May 2019, CAEATFA published a Notice of Re-Adoption of Emergency Regulations for the second pilot program - the Small Business Financing (SBF) pilot. The SBF Program emergency regulations have been effective since June 2019; full program launch is expected in August/September 2019. The goal of the program is to help small business access better financing terms for energy efficient retrofits. Eligible customers include for-profits and nonprofits meeting one of the following requirements: fewer than 100 employees, annual revenues of less than $15 million or adherence to SBA size limitations. Three finance companies have enrolled, and contractor enrollment has begun. Products supported include loans, leases, equipment financing agreements, service agreements and savings-based payment

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			agreements. CAEATFA plans to add an on-bill repayment option to the program in 2020. On February 26, 2019, CAEATFA held a public workshop on proposed regulations for the third pilot program – the Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Financing pilot. On April 22, 2019, CAEATFA published a Notice of Emergency Regulations. The regulations for the Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Financing program took effect on May 9, 2019. The program is designed to leverage and complement existing efforts to finance affordable multifamily energy efficiency retrofits and to encourage growth in private-market energy efficiency lending. The establishment of on-bill repayment functionality is also under design. Funding has not been identified to expand the pilots statewide. **Next Steps:** CAEATFA is working to identify a funding source to expand the pilots statewide, to provide a more comprehensive (solar and ZEV charging) and streamlined financing program for energy projects across the State. CAEATFA is also working to incorporate lessons learned to develop other effective financing solutions leveraging private capital.
5. The Legislature should require collaboration among all program delivery agencies to establish common metrics and collect and use data systematically across programs to increase the performance of these programs in low-income and disadvantaged communities.	CEC	CPUC CSD CARB HCD CDPH	**Status: Ongoing** In June 2018, the CEC released the *2018 Tracking Progress Report for Energy Equity Indicators* which is designed to help identify opportunities to improve access to clean energy, increase clean energy investment in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and improve local energy resilience. The report includes geospatial indicators related to the local economy, geography, demography, social engagement, public health, and environmental quality that can be used to identify low-income and disadvantaged communities with the most need, as well as performance indicators to inform a baseline and evaluate progress on energy equity efforts across California. The energy equity tracking progress report will serve as a mechanism to monitor performance of state-administered clean energy programs in low-income and

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			disadvantaged communities across the state. The CEC also developed an accompanying interactive web map that will allow for various data viewing options. CARB is working with the CEC, other state agencies, communities, and the public to develop a similar set of indicators related to clean transportation access for low-income residents. **Next Steps:** The interactive web map continues to be refined. Additional data and improvements to the online data visualization tool are expected to be available in Fall 2019. The updated Energy Equity Indicator report is expected to be available in Spring 2020.
6. The Legislature should expand opportunities for low-income and disadvantaged communities to use photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies.	CPUC		**Current Status: Ongoing** CPUC: In June 2018, the CPUC adopted three additional programs to promote solar services in disadvantaged communities (D.18-06-027). One is a community solar program, and is noted under Recommendation #2. The other programs are as follows: 1. Disadvantaged Communities – single-Family Affordable Solar Homes Program (DAC-SASH): provides up-front incentives for installation of solar for low-income residents-owners of single-family homes in disadvantaged communities. 2. Disadvantaged Communities – Green Tariff Program (DAC-GT): allows disadvantaged community residents to subscribe to receive electricity generated from a solar facility in California and receive a 20% discount on their overall bill. In January 2019, GRID Alternatives was selected as the DAC-SASH Program Administrator through a competitive solicitation process. GRID Alternatives and Southern California Edison executed a purchase order for administration of the DAC-SASH program in April 2019. After a stakeholder engagement process, GRID

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			Alternatives submitted a DAC-SASH Program Handbook and Program Implementation Plan (PIP) in May 2019. The Handbook and PIP are subject to approval through a formal CPUC resolution, expected in Q3 2019. The IOUs filed tariffs for the DAC-GT program in August 2018. A number of parties raised issues with the IOUs' proposed implementation plans and suggested improvements. The CPUC adjudicated these issues and the implementation plans for the DAC-GT program was approved with modification in Resolution E-4999. (May 2019) In December 2017, the CPUC created the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program, which provides funding to incentivize the installation of solar on existing multifamily affordable housing. In March 2019, the CPUC issued Resolution E-4987 to approve modifications to the SOMAH Program Handbook Program Implementation Plan in compliance with D.17-12-022. In April 2019, the CPUC issued D.19-03-015 to provide more flexibility in IOU administrative expenditures, outlining options for future actions regarding the auditing or review of the SOMAH program, and established deadlines for the execution of the necessary co-funding and incentive agreements to launch the program. The SOMAH Program formally launched and began accepting incentive applications on July 1, 2019. By close of business that same day, the entirety of SCE's, SDG&E's, and PG&E's 2019 incentive budgets were fully reserved by a total of 226 applications. These applications represent roughly 70 MW of installed capacity or nearly a quarter of the SOMAH Program's total goal of developing, by December 31, 2030, at least 300 megawatts of installed solar generating capacity. In December 2018, the CPUC issued D.18-12-015, which approved pilot projects in 11 San Joaquin Valley Disadvantaged Communities. The pilots will provide either natural gas or electric appliances to households that rely on wood and propane

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			burning appliances. The primary goals of the pilots are twofold. The first is to provide cleaner and more affordable energy options to households in disadvantaged communities. The second is to collect data to help inform the feasibility of scaling the program to other disadvantaged communities. **Next Steps:** **DAC-GT** The IOUs have updated their DAC-GT tariffs to comply with the direction provided in the Resolution. The IOUs will submit marketing, education, and outreach (ME&O) plans, 2019-2020 program budgets, and solicitation documents in early August for CPUC review. **DAC-SASH** The CPUC will issue a resolution on the DAC-SASH Program Handbook and Program Implementation Plan (PIP). Once the Handbook and PIP are approved by the CPUC, the DAC-SASH program can officially launch. Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) who serve residential customers in DACs are eligible to offer their own CSGT programs, as long as they are consistent with all program requirements. The CPUC will host a stakeholder workshop later this summer to discuss CCA implementation issues. **SOMAH** SOMAH incentive funding (sourced from the IOUs' 2019 cap-and-trade program proceeds) will be replenished once the Commission approves the IOUs' 2020 Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Forecast Updates or Energy Cost Adjustment Clause (ECAC) applications. This will likely occur in Q1 and Q2 2020. **San Joaquin Valley DAC**

			RFPs for a 3rd party program administrator and "community energy navigator" are currently in process. The IOUs have begun community outreach and education efforts. Various other details of the electrification and natural gas extension pilots are under review. The goal is to finish the planning process and begin implementation of the pilots in 2020. CSD Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) provides low-income households with solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to residents. The program reduces greenhouse gas emissions and household energy costs by saving energy and generating clean renewable power. LIWP currently operates three program components: Community Solar Pilot Program (Rec #2), Multi-Family Energy Efficiency and Renewables (Rec #6), and Farmworker Housing Energy Efficiency & Solar PV (Rec #6). LIWP Multi-Family Program (LIWP MF): Launched in 2016, provides technical assistance and financial incentives for the installation of energy efficiency and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in low-income multi-family dwellings. Project investments not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also improve the energy performance of low-income housing properties and the health and safety conditions within. In addition, program investments also help to preserve affordable housing in low-income and disadvantaged communities where such housing resources are greatly needed. As a result of strong market demand, the program is currently oversubscribed, and the lack of program funding has consequently forced the scale-down of marketing, outreach, and new project enrollment activities. To date, CSD has allocated $54.4M to LIWP MF and current program funding will support the completion of pending projects by June 2021.

			LIWP MF has been well-received by the multifamily housing community for a number of reasons including its offering of free "One-Stop-Shop" technical assistance which provides highly-skilled assistance at all stages of a project, its comprehensive and integrated approach to employing both whole-building energy efficiency and solar PV measures which enable deep energy retrofits that in some cases can verge on net zero projects, and the flexibility offered by LIWP MF's energy modeling approach, which doesn't utilize a prescribed list of measures as most programs do, but instead offers the opportunity to include an innovative and cutting edge measure or bundle of measures in a project, provided the measures reduce GHG emissions within certain cost guidelines. Across the portfolio of properties served to date LIWP MF has realized an impressive 40% energy usage reduction on average. At some projects, as mentioned above, where deep EE retrofits have been paired with electrification measures (Heat Pump Water Heaters, Heating and Cooling, etc.) and solar PV energy systems, the result has been near net zero projects. Farmworker Housing Energy Efficiency & Solar PV: On January 22, 2019, CSD released a Request for Proposal seeking to award approximately $10.5 million ($5.25M per region) from CSD's Fiscal Year 2017-18 and 2018-19 LIWP appropriations to Farmworker Housing Administrators in two defined 6-county geographic regions to benefit low-income farmworker households. One Farmworker Housing Administrator will be awarded per region. With this procurement, CSD is seeking to identify suitable Farmworker Housing Administrators with knowledge and experience administering energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs and providing supportive services to farmworkers and the communities in which they reside. Proposals were evaluated and scored with a notice of intend to award issued on April 9, 2019. CSD awarded approximately $5.25M to La Cooperativa Campesina de

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			California for region A and approximately $5.25M to La Cooperativa Campesina de California for region B. **Next Steps:** Multi-Family Energy Efficiency and Renewables: The 2019-20 Budget Act appropriated $10M from the GGRF to CSD for the continuation of LIWP low-income solar and multi-family weatherization services. CSD is the process of developing an allocation plan for 2019-20 LIWP appropriation and anticipates the plan will dedicate some amount of newly appropriated funding to the LIWP MF component. Farmworker Housing Energy Efficiency & Solar PV: Farmworker Housing Program implementation is to commence 90 days following contract execution and conclude December 31, 2020.
7. The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) should consider enhancing the priority of affordable housing tax credits for housing rehabilitation projects to include onsite energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. In addition, with funding provided by State policymakers, California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) should consider providing financial assistance, such as credit enhancements, to support energy	TCAC	CEC CPUC HCD CAEATFA	**Status: Completed** TCAC: Under TCAC's 9% and 4% credit programs, a point system has been incorporated which allows projects to get additional points by committing to environmental certification programs (LEED, GreenPoint Rated, Passive House, etc.) or incorporating renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Additionally, TCAC uses the California Utility Allowance Calculator (CUAC) in these credit programs to set project specific utility allowances that recognize energy efficiency and solar improvements, allowing project owners to keep a larger portion of their gross rent allocation which can then be used to finance not only the energy efficiency and solar improvements but also other project financing gaps. CEC: In January 2019, CEC educated the CPUC and IOUs implementing the Energy Savings Assistance Common Areas Measures (ESA CAM) program about tax credit properties and how these deed-restricted low-income multifamily buildings may benefit from the ESA CAM Program and could be improved by deep energy retrofits beyond the common areas at the time of ownership and financing change.

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efficiency and renewable energy improvements to coincide with TCAC tax credit events at rehabilitation.			**Next Steps:** CEC: TCAC is conducting rulemaking proceedings this year (2019) that will affect the funding and competitiveness of low-income multifamily housing applying for low-income housing tax credits. CEC will continue collaborative efforts and monitor regulatory changes affecting the funding and incentivizing of energy efficiency measures in low-income multifamily housing.
8. The State, in consultation with Energy Commission, CPUC, CARB, CSD, and other related state and local agencies, should establish a pilot program for multiple regional one-stop shops to provide technical assistance, targeted outreach, and funding services to enable owners and tenants of low-income housing across California to implement energy efficiency, clean energy, zero-emission and near-zero emission transportation infrastructure, and water-efficient upgrades in their buildings.	CARB CEC CPUC		**Current Status: Ongoing** The Energy Commission and CPUC have explored options for developing a one-stop-shop, however given the complexity and broad crosscutting nature of a comprehensive one-stop-shop, additional resources will need to be identified for implementation. SB 1072 (Leyva) calls for the establishment of a regional climate collaborative program to provide capacity building for under-resourced communities to access climate mitigation funding. This legislation directs the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to adopt guidelines for the regional climate collaboratives program by October 2019 and require the SGC to develop technical assistance guidelines that a state agency would be authorized to use in delivering its technical assistance resources or in developing additional technical assistance policies, standards, or guidelines, as specified, by July 1, 2020. If this law is implemented, it could serve as a platform for implementing one-stop-shop pilots. **Next Steps:** The CEC and CPUC will continue to explore options for developing a one-stop-shop, however, additional resources will likely need to be identified for implementation.

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9. The State, in coordination with local authorities and consumer protection agencies, should investigate the need for heightened consumer protection to help prosecute companies that use misleading information or engage in predatory practices to take advantage of low-income customers and small businesses in disadvantaged communities seeking access to clean energy benefits.	Governor's Office	CEC CPUC	**Status: Ongoing** A number of agencies have been working to address consumer protection in the growing clean energy economy. As of March 2019, CPUC, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) and Department of Business Oversight (DBO) have entered into a joint enforcement agreement and formed a Taskforce with working groups to 1) provide relief for customers harmed by solar companies' unfair business and lending practices, and 2) to collaborate on future policy solutions that enhance consumer protections for solar customers, particularly in vulnerable communities. The Taskforce is working to improve coordination on complaint tracking and response, enforcement and preventative outreach and education. A joint agency communication pilot project is developing a solar bulletin to send out to Fresno County customers in Aug/Sept 2019. The CPUC issued Net Energy Metering (NEM) Consumer Protection Decision D.18-09-044 in October 2018. The Decision establishes a process for creating a solar information packet for consumers per direction from D.16-01-044. The Decision also directs utilities to require valid (CSLB) licenses from solar providers to interconnect residential single-family solar systems to the grid, along with solar disclosure documents. An Assigned Commissioner Ruling was issued in March 2019 to seek comments on the following enhanced NEM consumer protection measures: administrative penalty mechanism, an independent consumer advocate or consumer clearinghouse, a list of "approved" solar providers, applicability of CTA consumer protection measures, and establishing a restitution fund.

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			The CPUC issued Decision 18-02-002 in compliance with SB 656 in February 2018. The Decision created a core transport agencies registration process with a citation program in order to better protect consumers from natural gas procurement service providers. **Next Steps:** The CPUC is continuing to consider ways to enhance NEM consumer protections such as a consumer complaint mediation, a restitution fund, enhanced enforcement, citation, or administrative penalty mechanism under CPUC authority. Per AB 1070, the CPUC is developing standardized inputs and assumptions for the calculation of electric bill savings for solar customers. The CPUC is also monitoring the Alternative Energy Provider complaints (for both NEM and CTAs) filed with the CPUC's Consumer Affairs Branch to determine if existing consumer protections are deterring the bad actors, or whether further action is needed.
10. The Legislature should direct funding for all state programs to collaborate with trusted and qualified community-based organizations in community-centric delivery of clean energy programs, in coordination with local governments.	CARB CEC CPUC	SGC CSD DGS GoBiz CBOs	**Current Status: Ongoing** CARB, the Energy Commission, and CPUC along with other supporting agencies, continue to work to identify opportunities where additional funding is needed to support collaboration and increased access to clean energy and transportation for low-income residents. **Next Steps:** The agencies will continue working together to identify opportunities where additional funding could support further collaboration and increased access. The agencies will also continue working to ensure that existing programs are benefiting low-income and disadvantaged communities.

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11. The Energy Commission and CPUC should direct research, development, demonstration, and market facilitation programs to include targeted benefits for low-income customers and disadvantaged communities.	CEC	CPUC	**Current Status: Complete** This recommendation was codified in Assembly Bill 523 (Reyes, 2017) which requires at least 25 percent of the Electric Program Investment Charge's (EPIC) technology demonstration and deployment (TD&D) funds to be allocated to projects located in and benefitting low-income or disadvantaged communities. 11.a) As of July 2019,, the CEC EPIC Program has invested approximately 31% of TD&D funds to 104 project sites located in disadvantaged communities, and an additional 34% to 74 project sites located in communities that are low income-only (e.g., are not also considered disadvantaged). 11.b) The 2018 and 2019 EPIC Symposiums included panels highlighting projects located in various underserved communities. Additionally, the CEC awarded a 3-year contract to conduct technical transfer activities for the EPIC Program. As part of this work, the contractor will help scope and facilitate technical forums on relevant clean energy research topics, including providing support to vulnerable communities. 11.c) The CEC directed Navigant Consulting to evaluate different business models/market opportunities for disadvantaged and low-income communities. The final report provided 13 recommendations, grouped into 3 critical areas for success: (1) outreach, (2) funding/infrastructure, and (3) execution. These recommendations were incorporated into the various goals and strategies provided in the CLIMB report. 11.d) The CEC established 2-phase competitions, known as EPIC Challenges where the first phase centers around the design and planning to create advanced energy communities, and the second phase awards winners with funding for the build-out of their design. Phase 1 for the 1st EPIC Challenge was issued in 2016 for the design and planning of advanced energy communities, including several in disadvantaged or low income communities located in the Central Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California. One of the Phase 2 projects seeks to install multiple microgrids in low-income communities located throughout Lancaster to benefit affordable housing and area schools.

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			The new scoring criteria is intended to ensure that: 1) TD&D projects located in disadvantaged and low-income areas are providing direct benefits to the community, and 2) scorers can evaluate the projected localized health impacts, if any. Additionally, the criteria requires community support and ongoing community engagement. **Next Steps:** 11.a) The CEC will implement new scoring criteria in upcoming TD&D solicitations to ensure that: 1) TD&D projects located in disadvantaged and low-income areas are providing direct benefits to the community, and 2) scorers can evaluate the projected localized health impacts, if any. Additionally, the criteria requires community support and ongoing community engagement. CEC will continue to provide funding set-asides for low income and disadvantaged communities, where applicable. 11.b) The CEC will work with internal/external stakeholders to identify potential forum topics. 11.c) The CEC will make Navigant's final report publicly available on the CEC website. 11.d) The CEC will release the next EPIC Challenge prize competition in late 2019: "Reimagining Affordable Mixed-Use Development in a Carbon-Constrained Future." All projects sites are required to be located in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

12. The State should conduct an in-depth, data-driven study in consultation with local business chambers, CBOs, technical assistance providers (such as small business development centers and the Office of Small Business Advocate) and small businesses to determine actions for increasing contracting opportunities for small businesses in low-income and disadvantaged communities.	Go-Biz	DGS SGC CEC CPUC	**Current Status: Ongoing** In 2018/19, GO-Biz was allocated $23 million in General Fund funding to support three grant programs for small business technical assistance centers throughout California. The Small Business Technical Assistance Expansion Program (SB TAEP) provides $17 million each year through 2022-23 to expand small business services, such as free or low-cost one-on-one consulting and low-cost training. The program's funding is focused on services to underserved business groups, including women, people of color, veterans and low-wealth, rural, and disaster impacted communities. The program allocates funding through a competitive grant process each year. List of all 2018/19 awardees is available online. The 2018/19 budget also included the continuation of $3 million in annual funding through 2022-23 for the Capital Infusion Program (CIP), which supports one-on-one business consulting provided by the Small Business Development Network to assist small businesses in accessing capital. The 2018/19 budget also allocated $3 million in one-time local cash match grants for the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), which supports other federal small business technical assistance centers. This one-time local cash match grant sunsets September 30, 2019. **Next Steps:** For 2019/20, GO-Biz released the RFP solicitation for SB TAEP on July 12, 2019 and the application period closes Friday, August 16, 2019.

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