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CBIA Comments on Research Idea Exchange

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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Kern County

April 10, 2020

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: **Docket #: 19-ERDD-01 Research Idea Exchange**

The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) is a statewide trade association representing over 3,100 member-companies involved in residential and light-commercial construction. CBIA member-companies are responsible for over 85% of the new homes built in California each year.

Please be advised that CBIA supports the California Energy Commission's upcoming design-build competition titled The Next EPIC Challenge: Reimagining Affordable Mixed-Use Development in a Carbon-Constrained Future. CBIA is a strong proponent of initiatives that address California's housing crisis by reducing the cost of new housing construction.

Affordability will be especially challenging for mid-rise, mixed-use developments that incorporate energy generation and advanced energy storage, management, and microgrid technologies. To ensure the project provides affordable housing, CBIA strongly recommends that the CEC does not impose prevailing wage requirements on this program, which would increase construction costs by an additional 20% or more.

Regarding schedule, it will be very difficult for developers to complete site selection and acquisition, obtain financing and complete city review, public review, CEQA review, public hearings, and resolve any potential litigation and still meet the CEC's anticipated schedule. For this reason, we strongly recommend that the scoring criteria for Phase I (and II) address the team's ability to realistically complete these prerequisites before the start of Phase II.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Raymer, PE
Senior Engineer/Technical Director