

**DOCKETED**

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**GRID Alternatives Comments on BUILD Draft Guidelines**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



## **Grid Alternatives' Comments on the BUILD Draft Program Guidelines**

To: California Energy Commission (CEC)

Date: December 15, 2021

GRID Alternatives (GRID) is a national leader in making clean, affordable solar power and solar jobs accessible to low-income communities and communities of color. GRID partners with affordable housing organizations, job training groups, government agencies, municipalities, utilities and local communities to make solar a win for everyone. We respectfully submit these comments in response to the draft BUILD Program Guidelines issued by the CEC.

One key element we observed missing from the guidelines is workforce development. Since BUILD is designed to support market transformation toward building decarbonization, we believe it will be beneficial to couple this initiative with job training opportunities. As California scales up decarbonization technology and construction it will need a strong workforce that is equipped to meet the labor demands, and BUILD is an important opportunity to learn what skills and occupations will be the most needed for large scale decarbonization.

We recommend that the CEC incorporate job training recommendations for BUILD contractors to help expand opportunities for workforce development in the rollout of this program. This program presents a unique opportunity to provide job training for individuals who reside in the communities where BUILD projects will be constructed, as well as individuals from hard to hire backgrounds in other localities. We encourage the CEC to consider partnering with community-based organizations who specialize in job training to provide training opportunities on BUILD projects. The Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program includes job training requirements with a focus on targeted recruitment of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.<sup>1</sup> We recommend implementing a similar model for BUILD.

GRID would like to commend the CEC for its commitment to stakeholder feedback in the development of the BUILD program. We recognize the significant investment of time and resources needed to accomplish this endeavor and appreciate the CEC's efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> SOMAH Program Handbook Section 2.6. Available at <https://calsomah.org/somah-program-handbook>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and commitment.

*Zainab Badi*

Zainab Badi  
GRID Alternatives  
Workforce Policy Project Manager  
[zbadi@gridalternatives.org](mailto:zbadi@gridalternatives.org)  
310-735-9769