

DOCKETED

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Sunnova CalAPP Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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February 22, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Docket #: 21-SOLAR-01

California Energy Commission,

Sunnova Energy International Inc. (NYSE: NOVA) is a leading residential solar and energy storage service provider, with customers across the U.S. and its territories, including California. The purpose of this letter is to provide recommendations on the current effort to plan the CalAPP grant program. These recommendations are provided to speed up adoption of SolarAPP+ and increase efficiency in the process.

The CalAPP process should allow grants to be retroactively approved for communities that have invested the time and money into installing SolarAPP+ prior to the program being started. Early adopters in this process should not be penalized, because their experiences and support for SolarAPP+ have made its benefits well known. Additionally, some communities like the city of Modesto are already through part of the process for adopting SolarAPP+. By not letting them retroactively use the funds, their complete adoption may be delayed until the program is ready. Easy permitting is vital to widespread adoption of residential solar, and with the current energy and climate change crises there is no more time to allow for delays. Communities need support to adopt SolarAPP+ as soon as they can, and not waste time concerned about budget reimbursements.

Also, the application process should be as simple as possible. We are glad that the CEC mentioned a simple, check the boxes type of application for the permitting grant. These funds need to be easily accessible to ensure they are fully utilized and provide the most benefit to communities. We agree that population size determining maximum grant amount seems like a fair approach to disbursement. Also, to ensure fairness, we suggest the grant approval process be non-competitive, and approvals to be decided on a first come first served basis.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CalAPP process and hope that this program will expedite the adoption of a simplified, fast permitting process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Nutting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Meghan Nutting
Executive Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs
Sunnova Energy International