

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	22-ERDD-01
Project Title:	Community Energy Resilience Investment Program
TN #:	245200
Document Title:	Mary Lasky Comments - Community Energy Resilience Investment Program
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Mary Lasky
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/18/2022 10:01:08 AM
Docketed Date:	8/18/2022

Comment Received From: Mary Lasky
Submitted On: 8/18/2022
Docket Number: 22-ERDD-01

Community Energy Resilience Investment Program

I am Mary Lasky, the chair of the InfraGard National Disaster Resilience Council and am submitting this as myself. I understand that CERI will be the California program that implements and provides subgrants to utilities within the State of California, pursuant to and based on Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the "Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Tribes" program.

Ideally, recipients of these monies should be required to spend a substantial portion (at least 10-15%) on grid hardening monies -- on equipment and strategies designed to minimize the risks associated with solar weather events. This could include equipment to prevent voltage collapse during solar storms, including neutral ground blockers and devices for reactive power support. Recipients also should be required to stockpile replacement transformers and other parts that might be impacted by such solar events, to allow for timely and orderly grid repair and restoration, even after a catastrophic solar flare/weather event.

Thank you.

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