DOCKETED				
Docket Number:	16-OIR-06			
Project Title:	Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group			
TN #:	246678			
Document Title:	Item 4 DACAG Meeting Minutes 9-16-22			
Description:	N/A			
Filer:	Dorothy Murimi			
Organization:	California Energy Commission			
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff			
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Docketed Date:	10/19/2022			

September 16, 2022 DACAG Meeting Minutes

ITEM 1, Welcome

Member Attendance				
Member	Present	Absent		
Adrian (joined at 1:05pm)	\boxtimes			
Andres	\boxtimes			
Fred		\boxtimes		
Jana	\boxtimes			
Roger	\boxtimes			
Roman		\boxtimes		
Stephanie	\boxtimes			
Curtis (joined at 1:35pm)	\boxtimes			
Elena	\boxtimes			
Julia	\boxtimes			

Group can move forward with voting items.

Jana Ganion serves as acting chair for the meeting.

ITEM 2, General Public Comment

None

ITEM 3, OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CEC AND CPUC COMMISSIONERS OR THEIR ADVISORS

Commissioners in Attendance:

- CEC Commissioners
 - □Chair Hochschild
 - **⊠Vice Chair Gunda**
 - Discussed the historic heat wave experienced in California in the preceding weeks, an extraordinary event that saw a grid load of nearly 7,000MW more than planned for September 2022. Even with Californians reducing their usage when the flex alert went out, all possible resources had to be deployed to meet the increased energy demand, including diesel backup power generators (BUGs), once again raising the intersectional issues of grid reliability and equity concerns. This is a broader conversation worth having. The event also reinforced the need for a strategic energy reserve, as clean as possible. The DACAG and Commissioner Gunda agreed that the question of diesel BUGs warrants further discussion, particularly during a time when the grid is under less pressure, before their deployment is urgent.
 - Kudos shared for Noemi Gallardo, Chief of Staff for Chair Hochschild and Interim
 Public Advisor, and the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) team, which

- completed a series of regional workshops that showcased the diversity of topics and opinions around IEPR.
- The Commission is beginning to think through the launch of the SB 100 (*The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018*) report. There's a desire to have early conversations with key stakeholder groups to determine how to scope the report and articulate the vision. Equity, affordability, and reliability are priorities.

		☐ Commissioner Douglas
		☐Commissioner Monahan
		☐Commissioner McAllister
		Other: N/A
•	CPUC	
		☐ President Reynolds
		☐Commissioner Houck
		$\square Commissioner \ Rechtschaffen$
		□Commissioner Shiroma
		□Commissioner Reynolds
		Other: N/A

New staff announcements: None

ITEM 4, Previous Month's meeting minutes from August 19, 2022.

Public Comment

None

Motion	Motion to approve Item 4, the Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (August 19, 2022).		
Member who makes	Andres Ramirez		
motion			
Member who seconds	Roger Lin		

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Not Present During Vote
Adrian Y	\boxtimes			
Andres Y	\boxtimes			
Fred				\boxtimes
Jana	\boxtimes			
Roger Y	\boxtimes			
Roman				
Stephanie	\boxtimes			
Curtis Y				

Elena Y		\boxtimes	
Julia Y	\boxtimes		

Motion	Passes	Doesn't Pass	If not unanimous, include vote count
ITEM 4	\boxtimes		6 votes aye, 1 abstain

ITEM 5, CEC staff present update about initial scoping and development of the Community Energy Resilience Investment (CERI) program to seek verbal feedback

Presentation Title: Community Energy Resilience Investment (CERI) Program, Alex Horangic, CEC

Notes:

- Overview of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity
 - Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Formula Grants to States and Tribes (Section 40101() of the IIJA)
 - Eligible applicants: States, Tribes, US Territories + subgrant-eligible entities
 - CA allocation in year 1: \$33,788,376 (about \$170M over 5 years); 15% match requirement – already secured through CA General Fund; 100% match from subgrants, with some exceptions
 - Small utility set-aside
 - Discussion of eligible and ineligible activities under Grid Resilience Formula Grant program
- CA application focus = competitive grant program, Community Energy Resilience Investment (CERI)
 - Disadvantaged communities and communities with greatest need will be prioritized
 - Qualities:
 - Reduce magnitude, duration, consequence of "disruptive event" (DOE-defined)
 - Speeding recovery
 - Improve capacity to mitigate impact
 - Enhance of ability of community to function
 - Preliminary Program Objectives & Themes
 - Energy Resilience & Reliability
 - Clean Energy & Decarbonization
 - Community Benefit & Equity
 - Quality Jobs
 - Discussed preliminary criteria under consideration for each theme/objective
 - Discussed preference for priority communities; sliding scale
 - Use of CalEnviroScreen 4.0
 - Communities that are struggling with climate resilience burdens and energy reliability
 - Discussed preliminary metrics considerations
 - o Identified future engagement opportunities
 - Listening sessions

- Public comment on CERI program draft guidelines
- Presentation at CEC Business Meeting
- Pre-application workshop with first CERI funding opportunity release, ideally mid-2023
- Shared ways to engage
 - CERI program announcements, CEC website, docket comments
- Identified specific areas for feedback
- GRID Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) another IIJA opportunity; \$10.5B *See PowerPoint presentation for further details on topics above

Q&A

None

Public Comment

- Adria Tinnin, Race Policy Analyst with Utility Reform Network
 - Commented that the number of jobs created doesn't indicate who got the jobs and if those jobs benefited the community; ensure that we avoid drawing misleading conclusions around benefit

DACAG Member Discussion:

- What's the overlap between the CalEnviroScreen communities and the communities experiencing disproportionate impact?
 - The top 25% of CalEnviroScreen communities are heavily located in the Central Valley and/or are federally-recognized tribes
 - Other communities experiencing disproportionate impact, such as high wildfire risks, include northern rural communities, the Sierras, and other rural communities, which may not overlap with CalEnviroScreen
- There may be an opportunity for this to address some of the diesel BUG issue raised earlier in the meeting, provided that it falls under the eligible activities of the funding and meet the priority criteria.
- If labor standards are part of the program design, we should also include job quality metrics such as wages earned, benefits offered, etc.
- If possible, prioritize no-combustion resources before just zero-carbon resources.
- Consider bonus points for projects that address grid reliability and projects that are broadly scalable, particularly those with the potential to expand to more environmental and social justice (ESJ) communities and to capture more tribal lands.
- CEC and CPUC outreach and listening sessions around community needs should be aligned and coordinated.
- Once we successfully identify community needs, we need to then evaluate how successful we are at meeting them.

• "Modest" comments of the DACAG reflect the strong work in developing this program to-date.

ITEM 6, Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) present the Microgrid Incentive Program [R.19-09-009] for DACAG to determine future involvement

Presentation Title: <u>IOU Presentations on the Microgrid Incentive Program for DACs (R.19-09-009) – Request for Limited DACAG Engagement</u> – Molly Hoyt, PG&E

Notes:

- Molly Hoyt presenting on behalf of PG&E, SDGE, SCE
- Overview of Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP)
 - Directive of CPUC
 - Objective: fund clean community microgrids for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations most likely to be impacted by outages
 - Next step is for CPUC to provide Decision on proposed implementation plan; expected early next year
- Why DACAG involvement?
 - Clean energy program designed for disadvantaged communities
 - o DER, Reliability, Community Engagement
 - Several parties to the proceeding recommended involvement
- MIP Process
 - Consult / **APPLY** / Study / Develop / Operate (3-4 year process)
 - Requesting DACAG engagement at Apply phase
 - o \$180M total budget across 3 IOUs; project *cap* of \$15M per project
- Application scoring subject to CPUC approval
 - IOU conducts a project eligibility screen: outage vulnerability, location in a DAC/DVC or facility that primarily serves a DACDVC, technical eligibility requirements
 - o Benefit points assigned by categoy: Customer & Community, Resilience, Environmental
 - Project score = benefit score (points) / application \$ incentive request
- Proposed DACAG Engagement
 - Each utility will present project scores and preliminary funding after each application window to the DACAG for review and provide feedback in an advisory capacity
 - Two scenarios: clear results vs. anomalous results (whereas projects with highest scores are not necessarily those selected due to misalignment with intention of funding)
 - DACAG to provide outside input
- Provided draft timeframes and net ask to DACAG; estimate 4-6 hours over 2-3 year period starting in 2024
- Discussed recusal/confidentiality/conflict of interest provision

Stephanie Chen and Jana Ganion recused themselves from the discussion and vote to avoid a conflict of interest. Julia Hatton assumed facilitation. Q&A

None

^{*}See PowerPoint presentation for further details on topics above

Public Comment

- Nihal Shrinath, Sierra Club, Microgrid Equity Coalition (MEC)
 - Voiced strong support for DACAG acting as a robust check, in a more comprehensive way than proposed
 - Recommended that the DACAG be consulted before any major decision is made regarding this program, that the DACAG review applications and request Commission review if needed, and that the DACAG have the ability to halt the process if needed
- Mari Rose Taruc, Reclaim Our Power Campaign
 - Campaign is part of Microgrid Equity Coalition; a group of EJ, disability justice groups, local clean energy campaigners, and wildfire survivors seeking to hold PG&E accountable
 - Have been attempting to shape the MIP over concerns around IOU lack of knowledge of these communities; believe that oversight by DACAG is essential for this reason
 - Recommended that the DACAG have the ability to question and object to any proposals
 - Voiced concern around the lengthy timeline; have been waiting 2 years for this project to get even to this point, and the need for microgrids is urgent
 - Requested that the DACAG to support their comment letter to speed up the MIP

DACAG Member Discussion:

- Clarity from legal on how the DACAG could provide advice on this, particularly in a way that
 doesn't delay the process further: if a member or member's organization is party to the
 proceeding or planning to be involved in an application, that member should recuse
 themselves.
- Intention for the DACAG to provide comments in the proceeding.
- Clarity on what an "advisory" role for the DACAG means in this context: this proposes an
 input/feedback role, but not a decision-making role, on both clear and anomalous
 recommendations. As proposed, the utility is not required to follow the input of the DACAG.
 Advice Letters would only be submitted to the CPUC in the event of an anomalous result; all
 results would be noted in the project reports filed with the Commission on a quarterly basis.
 There is also a process defined for applicants who disagree with the results/selections.
- This raises the larger question of what the DACAG can/can't do, and how we might move beyond passive engagement to more active engagement within our chartered advisory role. What needs to be done for our recommendations to hold representative weight?
- Would entertain the proposal for engagement from the public comments, which is essentially
 that the IOUs would present proposals to the DACAG before making their selections, selections
 and scoring would be shared, a list of all applications would be provided; DACAG would have
 the chance to review awards, ask questions, object, and ask for the Commission to reconsider.
- Concern that this work wouldn't start until 2024; this is because the program has yet to be approved by the CPUC; utilities will then require implementation time and time to conduct community outreach.

- The DACAG Charter states that our role is to advise the CEC and the CPUC, not the IOUs.
 Additionally, any feedback we provide should go directly to the Commission, and not through a
 third party such as an IOU. Since the MIP program hasn't been approved yet, we could
 suggest something like the MEC's proposal directly to the Commission, as a condition for
 approval of the program, which may be a good test of our role and engagement.
- Unless we understand the methodology, it's hard to meaningfully engage.
- Intriguing opportunity to become more active and that means more time. This means more capacity on our end, but we also don't want to hold up the process in any way. What would it look like to give it this the time it needs and ensure we're addressing it timely?
- Considered the possibility of adding a special meeting, if we were to take on this role, so as not to slow down the process for communities and meet any CPUC deadlines.
- This item falls under the Subject Matter Areas of DER and/or Reliability.
- Confirmed that there is still quorum with recused members.

Motion	Motion for the Subject Matter Experts on this topic to draft comments on Item 6, DACAG Involvement in Investor-Owned Utilities Microgrid Incentive Program [R.19-09-009], for full consideration at our October meeting.
Member who makes motion	Roger Lin
Member who seconds	Curtis Silver

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Not Present During Vote
Adrian	\boxtimes			
Andres	\boxtimes			
Fred				\boxtimes
Jana				
Roger	\boxtimes			
Roman				\boxtimes
Stephanie				\boxtimes
Curtis	\boxtimes			
Elena	\boxtimes			
Julia	\boxtimes			

Motion	Passes	Doesn't Pass	If not unanimous, include vote count	• A
ITEM 6	\boxtimes			

After the vote,

Stephanie Chen and Jana Ganion returned to the meeting and Jana Ganion resumed role as acting chair.

ITEM 7, DACAG subject matter experts present <u>proposed comment letter about EPIC 4 Investment Plan Update</u>, followed by potential vote to approve and authorize submission.

Presentation Title: DACAG Comment on Electric Program Investment Charge 4 (EPIC-4) Applications

Notes:

None

Q&A

None

Public Comment

None

DACAG Member Discussion:

- SME provided an overview of the proposed comments
 - o EPIC 4 Projects Should Prioritize DAC and ESJ Communities
 - o Projects Must Exclude Carbon Capture, Utilization and Sequestration Projects
 - Projects Should Prioritize No Combustion Resources (*see Comments for full details)

Motion	Approve Item 7, DACAG Comment on Electric				
	Program Investment Charge 4 (EPIC-4) Applications				
Member who makes	Roger Lin				
motion					
Member who seconds	Andres Ramirez				

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Not Present During Vote
Adrian	\boxtimes			
Andres	\boxtimes			
Fred				
Jana	\boxtimes			
Roger	\boxtimes			
Roman				\boxtimes
Stephanie	\boxtimes			
Curtis	\boxtimes			
Elena	\boxtimes			
Julia	\boxtimes			

Motion	Passes	Doesn't Pass	If not unanimous, include vote count
ITEM 7	\boxtimes		

ITEM 8, DACAG Priority Areas

- Transportation Electrification
- Building Decarbonization & Electrification
- Workforce Training & Development
- Reliability
- Gas Transition
- Distributed Energy Resources
- Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program
- Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)
- Affordability
- Community Engagement

O&A:

None

Public Comment:

- John Spector, Energy Coalition
 - Request related to the Residential SGIP Equity Advanced Rebate Program, per comments submitted by The Energy Coalition on 08/25/2022 to the CEC, requesting to expand the existing Advanced Rebate Program for the SGIP Residential Equity Bucket. SGIP funds have already been awarded and approved, but projects require an upfront expenditure that is often too high for the targeted recipients of these awards. Projects are delayed or cancelled due to lack of financing. The Golden State Finance Authority's revolving loan fund mechanism would address that gap and accelerate SGIP payment.
- Gabriel Petlin, CPUC Energy Division
 - Oversees SGIP and is acutely aware of the low number of successfully completed projects in the SGIP equity budget and is looking at ways to address it. Recent legislation, SB 209, will bring an influx of new general fund dollars into SGIP, which is targeted to low-income residential program. This makes the need to engage stakeholders on how to improve equity outcomes in this program even more pressing. One core equity issue is that of upfront financing.
 - There will be a formal comment period, most likely in October.

DACAG Member Discussion:

Have heard of problems and delays such as these, which result in significant wait time. Where
entities can't afford to provide that funding upfront, it's important to consider these
modifications that could provide bridge funding – a revolving loan fund seems like a good way
to do it.

• Proposal to make informal and formal comments, and to have a more robust discussion on the issue in October.

Public Comment on this Motion:

None

Motion	Motion for the SME to draft a letter in support of the Energy Coalition's comment letter submitted to the docket in August, and to bring it back to the October
	21 DACAG meeting for review and approval
Member who makes motion	Roger Lin
Member who seconds	Julia Hatton

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Not Present During Vote
Adrian	\boxtimes			
Andres	\boxtimes			
Fred				\boxtimes
Jana	\boxtimes			
Roger	\boxtimes			
Roman				\boxtimes
Stephanie	\boxtimes			
Curtis	\boxtimes			
Elena	\boxtimes			
Julia	\boxtimes			

Motion	Passes	Doesn't Pass	If not unanimous, include vote count
ITEM 8	\boxtimes		

Priority Area Developments:

- DER and/or Community Engagement
 - o Gabe Petlin, CPUC Energy Division
 - Objective of the proceeding is to prepare the electric grid to accommodate and get value from our expected high DER future and to ensure benefits are maximized, which includes looking at questions of equity.
 - Listening sessions are coming in October; at least one session will be focused on issues of concern to tribes, another on local government, and another on leaders of CBOs. They will be publicly noticed and open to the public. Dates are TBD, but will be followed by outreach and a forwardable invite letter.

- Specifically hoping to get input on (1) the needs assessment to understand how distribution planning can be more responsive to communities, and (2) investigating future models of how the grid can be operated.
- Request to the DACAG: If you know of specific CBOs that should participate, including any DACAG members, contact:
 - Rob Peterson Robert.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov
 - Gabe Petlin Gabriel.Petlin@cpuc.ca.gov
- Transportation Electrification
 - Provided feedback to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program for CA.
 President Biden has approved CA's NEVI program, though not all of our feedback was accepted.
- Will send reminder before October meeting to prompt folks to share-out on priority areas.

DACAG Member Discussion:

None

DACAG Member Priority Area Selections:

None

ITEM 9, DACAG members report out regarding the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB)

Member Update: None

O&A:

None

Public Comment:

None

DACAG Member Discussion:

None

ITEM 10, Updates and announcements by DACAG members and staff of CEC and CPUC.

- CEC Updates
 - 2022 Epic Symposium Tuesday, October 4th; completely virtual rather than hybrid; registration required: https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/outreach/2022-10/2022-electric-program-investment-charge-epic-joint-symposium
 - Remote Advisory Committee meeting for Clean Transportation Investment Plan is upcoming and open to the public; also setting up meetings with relevant SMEs.
 - Request for an item on October agenda on this topic
 - Major event today: <u>Governor Newsom signed</u> multiple bills related to fighting climate change in the <u>CA Climate Commitment Bill Package</u>. Commissioner Hochschild was present for the signing.

CPUC Updates

- Energy Equity Project released its framework this week, which can be found at https://energyequityproject.com/
- A hearing will be held for the OIR for the Advanced Demand Flexibility through Electric Rates, or dynamic ratemaking; potential impacts for equity
- PG&E is submitting its application for its gas cost allocation and rate design proposals for gas transmission and storage system.
- PG&E is also submitting its application for the authority to increase rates and charges for electric and gas service effective in 2023.
- A webinar will be held on 9/21 on understanding and interacting with the CPUC: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/webinar-understanding-and-interacting-with-the-cpuc-09-21-2022
- The CPUC issued a first-in-the-nation decision yesterday that eliminates natural gas line subsidies for new natural gas hookups, under R.19-01-011. The first-in-the-nation removing subsidies for building out the gas system. This is expected to save ratepayers \$164M/year and supports decarbonization of our energy system.

ITEM 11, General Public Comment.

Public Comment

None

ITEM 12, Future meeting dates, locations, and topics

- The next meeting is scheduled for **October 21st**, **2022 at 1:00 p.m.** in-person, Sacramento, CA.
 - The preference is for DACAG members to be in-person, but this will be a hybrid meeting where members, staff, and the public have the option to join remotely.
 - Objections
 - None
 - Possible Agenda Items
 - CEC staff present update on Draft Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan to seek feedback through written comments
 - High Distributed Energy Resources CEC/CPUC
 - AB 205
 - Review and approval of proposed letters/comments from Item 7 (DACAG involvement in MIP) and Item 8 (Energy Coalition comment letter re: SGIP gap funding)
 - SGIP discussion and possible presentation (in alignment with procedural schedule)
 - Offshore Wind Energy Auctions (October or November)

ITEM 13, Adjourn

Time Adjourned: 3:42pm