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Filer:	Dorothy Murimi
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Adopted DACAG Priority Area Descriptions

Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR):

The CEC's IEPR conducts assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices. The Energy Commission shall use these assessments and forecasts to develop energy policies that conserve resources, protect the environment, ensure energy reliability, enhance the state's economy, and protect public health and safety. The DACAG has determined that this is a priority area to ensure the adequate consideration of Tribal, DAC, and other low-income and environmental justice community needs in energy planning, and the appropriate coordination of the IEPR with other CEC and CPUC programs intended to deploy clean energy resources, in particular distributed energy resources, to those communities.

Gas Transition:

Promote the rapid transition away from natural gas, with an emphasis on reducing methane leakage across the gas supply chain, mitigating gas infrastructure hazards through safe decommissioning, and reducing the public health burdens of gas use in homes, power plants, and other sectors, with a focus on reducing impacts on both vulnerable and environmentally overburdened populations. Support electrification strategies that facilitate access for renters, ESJ communities, and historically underserved populations, with an aim to ensure that transition strategies improve energy affordability and mitigate cost burdens on non-adopters.

Distributed Energy Resources:

Facilitate access to distributed energy resources (DERs) for historically underserved populations, including renters and ESJ communities, through strategies such as equitable financing and rate design. Ensure that energy efficiency, demand response, distributed solar, distributed storage, and zero-carbon microgrids are considered within DER strategy and deployed to realize affordability and resilience benefits. Coordinate with building decarbonization, grid planning, and building and vehicle electrification efforts.

Reliability:

Develop resilience and reliability strategies that protect those most vulnerable to climate change and other stressors. Mitigate the impacts of public safety power shutoffs on vulnerable populations, such as those reliant on electricity to power medical equipment, through the strategic deployment of distributed energy resources such as microgrids and solar + storage. Ensure that meeting reliability needs does not undermine climate goals nor pollution reduction goals, including consideration of power plants and diesel generator impacts on environmentally overburdened and ESJ communities.

Workplace Training and Development:

The purpose of this priority area is to investigate, research and promote current and new green & clean energy technology and skill related training job opportunities. Develop a campaign to promote and target in particular the various DACAG, tribal and rural communities throughout the state of California through selected media, print and radio PSAs. This priority area will use the CEC's Idea Initiative and CPUC's Social Justice Action Plan as guiding indicators.

Community Engagement:

The purpose of this priority area is to promote and improve the various agencies options and opportunities to have meaningful engagement initiatives that will benefit the DACAG, tribal and rural communities throughout the state of California which could include but not limited to supporting community-based organizations through grants and incentive programs and compensate them appropriately for the time and resources necessary to support and facilitate meaningful engagement.

Electrification and Building Decarbonization:

Promote rapid building decarbonization through the widespread adoption of energy efficiency and electrification while prioritizing access for renters, low-income households, ESJ communities, and other historically underserved populations through tailored programs, financing options, and community engagement. Facilitate coordination between efforts focused on building decarbonization, electrification, mitigation of methane leakage, reliability, gas decommissioning, resilience, and public health.

Affordability

Identify impacts of COVID debt accumulation for ESJ communities, and what mechanisms can be implemented quickly to help impacted customers. Identify drivers of electric rate growth and strategies to mitigate it. Promote affordable access to clean energy technologies that can help customers save money as well as reduce emissions.

Transportation Electrification:

The Transportation Electrification (TE) working group goal is to engage, provide feedback and share mechanisms to the CEC and CPUC TE efforts that will provide direct and meaningful benefits to ESJ communities. This working group will prioritize engagement in discussions focused on improving air-quality, workforce development, access and affordability. Our scope will include light-duty, medium and heavy-duty vehicles, port electrification and critical minerals for batteries and other supply chain equipment.

Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program:

Advocating for EPIC related initiatives that help ensure: 1) equal access to funding opportunities for underrepresented entrepreneurs (including women, people of color, veteran, and LGBTQ-owned businesses); 2) technology demonstration and deployment funding benefits low-income and disadvantaged communities; 3) EPIC projects advance both energy and non-energy benefits, especially in low income and disadvantaged communities; and 4) all investments benefit California's electricity ratepayers.