

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Center for Sustainable Energy  
Submitted On: 11/30/2022  
Docket Number: 22-IEPR-01*

**Center for Sustainable Energy Comments on the Draft 2022 IEPR Update**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

November 30, 2022

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 22-IEPR-01  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Docket No. 22-IEPR-01– Comments of Center for Sustainable Energy® regarding the Draft 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update**

The Center for Sustainable Energy® (CSE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update (2022 IEPR Update).

CSE is a national nonprofit that is transforming markets for clean transportation and distributed energy resources through software-enabled program design, program administration, and policy analysis and guidance. CSE administers innovative programs for governments, utilities, and the private sector across the U.S. CSE's independence and data-driven approach have made it a trusted resource and partner for over 25 years. Our vision is a future with sustainable, equitable, and resilient transportation, buildings, and communities, and as such, we support holistic and long-term planning with an integrated approach.

CSE commends the California Energy Commission (CEC) for developing the 2022 IEPR Update with a focus on embedding equity and environmental justice throughout the agency's policies, programs, investments, and practices. This approach will help the state meet its climate, decarbonization, and energy equity goals.

CSE is committed to centering equity into every program we administer and the policies we support. As such, CSE centers its feedback on the proposed recommendations for "Chapter 1: Embedding Equity and Environmental Justice at the California Energy Commission." We offer the following specific recommendations:

1. Support the opening of an order instituting informational proceeding (OIIP) focused on equity and environmental justice.
2. Support the Draft Justice Access Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JAEDI) Framework and revisiting the Energy Equity Indicators.
3. Encourage the CEC to develop a process to assess its progress on embedding equity and environmental justice in all of its proceedings, not just in future IEPR proceedings.
4. Support the proposal to hold an annual equity and environmental justice summit.

**1. Support the opening of an order instituting informational proceeding (OIIP) focused on equity and environmental justice.**

The 2022 IERP Update process has proven to be invaluable to further equity and environmental justice principles and best practices in the CEC's work, from conducting regional workshops and stakeholder meetings across the state to the development of a Draft JAEDI Framework. CSE strongly supports the opening of an OIIP that will allow the CEC to continue this momentum to further its commitment to equity and environmental justice. CSE also agrees with staff's proposal that the OIIP would have an associated docket to continue the development of the JAEDI Framework and the Energy Equity Indicators, including setting engagement and completion timelines with milestones for these two efforts.

**2. Support the Draft Justice Access Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JAEDI) Framework and revisiting the Energy Equity Indicators.**

CSE applauds the Draft JAEDI Framework's inclusion of comprehensive guiding principles based on key documents, such as The Principles of Environmental Justice<sup>1</sup> and the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group's (DACAG) Equity Framework<sup>2</sup>, and accompanying best practices and considerations to embed an equity and environmental justice lens in the CEC's efforts. CSE particularly supports the sixth best practice because it clearly delineates non-energy benefits (NEBs) and calls for these to be included in analyses. CSE recommends that metrics and methodologies for these NEBs be developed as part of the OIIP and for this process to be coordinated with the CEC's new public process to develop a community benefits framework for its Clean Transportation Program<sup>3</sup>, as well as with peer agencies' ongoing efforts to identify and quantify NEBs.

CSE also supports the CEC's inclusion of definitions for energy justice and energy equity (and its four key dimensions). State conversations in the equity space have evolved over the years, starting with the formal recognition in statute that there are communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and poverty and the importance of targeting investments in these communities. Now it is imperative for decision-makers to begin addressing the how of what they are doing, not just the what. This will include acknowledging procedural equity, recognitional equity, and restorative equity, which the JAEDI Framework also defines.

CSE also appreciates the CEC revisiting and revitalizing its Energy Equity Indicators, which CSE suggested in our Comments on the Draft Scoping Order for the 2022 IEPR Update.<sup>4</sup> The Draft 2022 IEPR Update

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<sup>1</sup> The Principles of Environmental Justice, accessed on November 29, 2022, *available at* [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/EJ/Reports\\_Linked\\_Pages/EJ\\_principles.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/EJ/Reports_Linked_Pages/EJ_principles.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> DACAG's Equity Framework, accessed on November 29, 2022, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=224742>.

<sup>3</sup> Clean Transportation Program Community Benefits Workshop, accessed on November 29, 2022, *available at* <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2022-11/clean-transportation-program-community-benefits-workshop>.

<sup>4</sup> Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) Comments on Draft Scoping Order for the 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report, page 1, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242412&DocumentContentId=75916>.

calls for the indicators' data to be available, accessible, and understandable to "...enable and empower individuals and communities to retrieve, understand, and use their data."<sup>5</sup> To this end, CSE reiterates our recommendation that the interface of the Energy Equity Indicators mapping tool be revamped so that it has an interactive dashboard, is easier to navigate, and more easily differentiates data layers. Additionally, CSE supports the proposed community-centric and iterative phased approach to update the Energy Equity Indicators, which is intentional on ground-truthing and receiving additional input from tribes, low-income communities, disadvantaged communities, and rural communities.

**3. Encourage the CEC to develop a process to assess its progress on embedding equity and environmental justice in all of its proceedings, not just in future IEPR proceedings.**

CSE supports the recommendation for the CEC to require an analysis focused on equity and environmental justice to be completed in each future IEPR to hold itself accountable. CSE recommends that this analysis, or another method, also be required for all of the CEC's proceedings. For example, each new proceeding could include a section in its scoping order on how the JAEDI Framework and the Energy Equity Indicators will be incorporated in the proceeding's processes and activities. A standardized template to report this information could also be developed to help simplify the process.

**4. Support the proposal to hold an annual equity and environmental justice summit.**

CSE supports the Draft 2022 IEPR Update's proposal to hold an annual equity and environmental justice summit in coordination with other state agencies and environmental justice leaders. CSE agrees with the recommendation that "[a] possible topic would be to update, across all state agencies, language describing tribes and communities." As a starting point in this discussion, CSE suggests the CEC consider the alignment, where feasible, of the Draft JAEDI Framework's proposed "Justice Communities" definition with the California Air Resources Board's "Priority Communities" definition<sup>6</sup> and the California Public Utilities Commission's "Environmental and Social Justice Communities" definition<sup>7</sup>. There are similarities in these three definitions (e.g., inclusion of the state's disadvantaged communities' designation pursuant to Senate Bill 535), but there are also nuanced differences that should be discussed (e.g., underserved community definition pursuant to Assembly Bill 841). Aligning these definitions will help reduce confusion among community and tribal members with no previous knowledge of agencies' policies and programs that use these definitions. Furthermore, from a consumer perspective, this alignment will make the process of stacking incentives under the various agencies' programs more manageable.

The Draft 2022 IEPR Update also recommends that "...state leadership should consider a statutory change to remove or replace the use of terms based on deficiencies as "disadvantaged" and

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<sup>5</sup> Draft 2022 IEPR Update Report, page 30, *available at* <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=247338&DocumentContentId=81732>.

<sup>6</sup> Priority Population Investments Map, accessed November 30, 2022, *available at* <https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/>.

<sup>7</sup> CPUC's Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan: Version 2.0, page 2, *available at* <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>.

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“underserved” to describe communities and tribes.”<sup>8</sup> CSE supports this recommendation as a way to further uplift tribes and communities and additionally recommends that any statutory changes allow for greater flexibility to permit state agencies to come to agreement on terms through their respective regulatory processes, with feedback and input from community and tribal members.

## Conclusion

CSE appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments regarding the Draft 2022 IEPR Update. We look forward to continued collaboration with the CEC and stakeholders in updating the IEPR to center equity and environmental justice in the agency’s policies, programs, investments, and practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabiola P. Lao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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<sup>8</sup> Draft 2022 IPER Update Report, page 101, *available at*  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=247338&DocumentContentId=81732>