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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Report Update (2022 IEPR Update))
) Re: Centering Equity and
) Environmental Justice
) Throughout CEC Efforts
)

INTEGRATED ENERGY POLICY REPORT COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP
ON CENTERING EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
THROUGHOUT CEC EFFORTS

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022

2:00 P.M.

Reported by:

Martha Nelson

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Darcie Houck, CPUC Commissioner

Patty Monahan, CEC Commissioner

Andrew McAllister, CEC Commissioner

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SPANISH INTERPRETER

Jeanette Hernandez

MODERATOR

Angie Hacker, Prosper Sustainably

Jana Ganion, Blue Lake Rancheria

APPEARANCESPRESENTERS

Michelle Sevilla, Central Coast Climate Justice Network

Alajandra Tellez, Ventura County

Alexis Rizo, Community Environmental Council

Kathleen Mallory, City of Oxnard

Dustin Jolley, OurEnergy

Haley Ehlers, Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas

Terea Macomber, GRID Alternatives Access Clean California

Peter Alstone, Schatz Energy Research Center

Josh Simmons, Prosper Sustainably

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Perry, Synergistic Solutions

Sahar Abbaszadeh, Arup

Ben Schwartz, Clean Coalition

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P R O C E E D I N G S

2:01 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022

MS. RAITT: Alright, good afternoon. Welcome back everybody. Hope everybody was able to rejoin from this morning.

Again, this is the 2020 IEPR Update Commissioner Workshop on Centering Equity and Environmental Justice Throughout the Energy Commission's Efforts. And I'm Heather Raitt, the Director for the Integrated Energy Policy Report, which we refer to as IEPR.

So similar to this morning, I'll just briefly go over, there's lots of ways to participate today, and we welcome participation. Attendees may ask questions, and we'll have some time reserved for folks in the room. We'll have you come up to the lectern and you can ask questions. And if you're on Zoom, you can use the Q&A function to type in a question. And then we also will have some time at the end of the afternoon for public comment, and that's a time when we'll allow up to three minutes for each person to speak. And it's unfortunate, we won't be addressing questions, but it's an opportunity to make some comments about the workshop.

And then, lastly, we welcome written comments. So written comments, how to do that is in the public notice

1 and all the information is there. And then written
2 comments are due on September 21st.

3 So with that, I will turn it over to Commissioner
4 Patty Monahan.

5 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Hello. Good afternoon.
6 Welcome back to the folks in the room, and to the folks
7 also on the Zoom call. As Heather said, I'm Patty Monahan.
8 I'm a Commissioner at the California Energy Commission, the
9 lead for transportation. And I'm here, really -- Vice Chair
10 Gunda, who I know would love to make opening remarks, I
11 think for those who are here in the morning, you've heard
12 him speak pretty passionately about how much he cares about
13 this intersection of energy and equity, and he really is
14 being pulled off. The Governor is holding a press
15 conference at this moment about the Western heatwave and
16 what it means for the grid, and Siva is there to respond to
17 questions. So he really is, I'm sure, very sad not to be
18 here. Hopefully he will join later.

19 So I'm going to try to channel Vice Chair Gunda.
20 As you might have seen this morning, he has a big heart,
21 and that's one of the things we really appreciate about him
22 is that he has a big brain and a big heart and he brings
23 that to the work. And I think it's something, a model, for
24 all of us to really think about, how do we connect the
25 emotional with the intellectual?

1 In this morning's session, you know, we really
2 benefitted, I think, from some of the data that was
3 presented by the CalEPA racial equity team. And, you know,
4 some of the -- I think was Kevin Olp from Bay Area Air
5 Quality Management District who was talking about some of
6 the -- how hard it is to hear some of the -- just how we
7 viewed, we as a society, redlined communities based on race
8 and use pejorative terms to describe those races. And that
9 just is really emotionally, I think, hard for all of us to
10 hear and to recognize, especially as a White person, that
11 we're part of that legacy of prejudice, and we have a
12 special responsibility to acknowledge what it means and to
13 try to redress it as much as possible.

14 And I think, you know, we, as state agencies,
15 struggle with the bureaucracy in the same way that
16 communities struggle with the bureaucracy. You know, how
17 do we break down barriers? How do we work better together?
18 How do we address these wrongdoings? And it's a struggle.
19 There's a lot of goodwill. There's a lot of intransigence
20 at the same time, and red tape, and we appreciate these
21 conversations. We appreciate having the personal, the big
22 hearts that come into these conversations and trying to
23 learn from them, see what we can take, operationalize it as
24 much as possible.

25 I want to thank Lucas Zucker from CAUSE who

1 really highlighted a lot of the activities that the
2 community did against the Puente Power Plant, successfully
3 being able to, with regulators, with the Energy Commission,
4 recognize that there were alternatives to having yet
5 another facility in this community that's already overly
6 burdened.

7 And I also want to thank Josh Simmons, who has,
8 for the first time, unveiled some of the information. I
9 think we're still trying to digest it, what it means for
10 this tribal gap analysis and, again, how we operationalize
11 it. I was talking to Josh briefly on the side about
12 wanting to understand what that one successful program that
13 was federally, how did that work?

14 So I think, again, we have a lot of information
15 that we need to digest. And this afternoon is another
16 opportunity for us to explore more deeply this connection
17 between equity and what's happening with energy development
18 here in this area.

19 So with that, I will just turn it to Heather to
20 start the afternoon.

21 MS. RAITT: Alright, great. Thank you,
22 Commissioner.

23 So for this first panel for this afternoon, it's
24 on tribes and communities and what we need to do to
25 activate local action. And I'm very happy to have Angie

1 Hacker to hear -- from Prosper Sustainably to moderate.

2 MS. HACKER: Alright. Good afternoon, everybody,
3 and greetings to the Commissioners, Staff, members of the
4 public.

5 I want to thank CEC for hosting this important
6 and thoughtfully-curated event and for taking the time to
7 listen to communities, and for allowing me to facilitate
8 this session on what do tribes and communities need to
9 activate local energy action? Such an important topic.
10 And I get to moderate a really distinguished panel, who I
11 will introduce in just a minute.

12 I'm Angie Hacker. I get to run Prosper
13 Sustainably with Josh Simmons, who you heard from earlier.
14 And I've been working alongside communities doing
15 community-scale sustainability for over 20 years, both
16 inside and outside of government. In fact, I used to run
17 the energy and climate programs for the County of Santa
18 Barbara before I was joining Prosper.

19 And as a consultant, now I'm just lucky. I get
20 to work and support tribes, CBOs, nonprofits, states and
21 local governments around the country figuring out how to
22 actualize their energy and climate goals. And one
23 important role that I get to play is as the statewide Best
24 Practices Coordinator for the California Climate and Energy
25 Collaborative, which is a program of CivicWell, formerly

1 Local Government Commission, which has served local
2 governments and their partners for about 13 years, and it
3 was originally a CPUC directed program.

4 And this event today is right in line with what
5 we think are some of the major priorities of CCEC, which is
6 to build a closer state, local alliance to address energy
7 emissions and equity needs on the ground in California
8 communities. And many of you here today, here in the room
9 or remote, have been at this a while, have been pushing
10 progress on climate crisis and climate justice for a long
11 time. So I just want to thank and recognize you for your
12 work on the ground, tackling these issues from the
13 frontlines, and I want to actually invite you -- I've
14 opened up the chat -- to just tell us one thing happening
15 in your community that you're proud of. What's one local
16 energy action happening in your neck of the woods that you
17 want the state to hear about?

18 And those of us that have been at this a while
19 can attest that this is groundbreaking time, this year
20 specifically. In addition to federal policy movement,
21 there are so many major moves happening at the state level.
22 The IEPR is one of them, obviously we've got the CARB
23 scoping plan that's out, we've got CPUC proceedings that
24 are really important and new and targeting investments and
25 assistance program, all of which are mapping the pathway to

1 a carbon-neutral future for all in California.

2 And there are equally important moves happening
3 at the local level through CBOs, through NGOs that are
4 assuming greater leadership on energy and equity than ever.
5 New and innovative local government initiatives from
6 equitable climate plans and electrification policies to
7 CCAs and local government regional climate collaboratives
8 and regional energy networks that we'll hear from today.

9 And then you've got tribes. Tribes are
10 demonstrating ways to build energy resilience and clean
11 energy economies and are being recognized for their
12 knowledgeable management of natural resources.

13 It's a whirlwind of all the right ingredients,
14 that we need to put these pieces together to truly unlock
15 local potential within our communities. And we need all
16 hands on deck, including all of us in the room.

17 Okay, so with that, I'm really pleased today to
18 introduce the panel, which reflect a cross section of some
19 of the most amazing local energy work that I'm aware of, at
20 least here on the Central Coast.

21 We're actually going to -- I'm going to introduce
22 all of the panelists, and then we'll just go down one by
23 one. They'll get to tell you a little bit more about their
24 work.

25 So Michelle Sevilla, she brings a unique lens as

1 a locally-raised young immigrant from the Philippines, and
2 more than a decade of more than a decade of environmental
3 outreach and education experience in the museum setting,
4 and as a volunteer leader in various environmental
5 organizations, working in the nexus of equity and the
6 environment. She is the outgoing Network Manager for
7 something out here on the Central Coast, the Central Coast
8 Climate Justice Network.

9 Alajandra Tellez, she is Ventura County's
10 Sustainability Officer overseeing the Tri-County Regional
11 Energy Network, Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance,
12 and the county's Climate Action Plan. She's worked with
13 the County since 2003 and started working on sustainability
14 initiatives in 2010 as part of the CEO's office.

15 We have Alexis Rizzo. She is the Policy
16 Associate with the Community Environmental Council, which
17 serves the Central Coast by building grassroots programs,
18 educating the community on issues, and advocating for bold
19 policies.

20 And we've got our local city representative,
21 Catherine Mallory. She is the Planning and Sustainability
22 Manager for the City of Oxnard and is responsible for a
23 variety of sustainability initiatives from climate action
24 and adaptation to housing. And she brings 30 years of
25 experience in public and private sector -- from the public

1 and private sector, and a unique perspective regarding
2 sustainability, combining energy and resilience
3 opportunities, housing equity, and environmental justice.

4 And then finally, Dustin Jolley. He is a founder
5 principal of OurEnergy. He has over 20 years of experience
6 in distributed and utility scale power and infrastructure
7 projects from development through commercial operation,
8 including some work here on the Central Coast that I think
9 he'll talk about today.

10 So welcome everybody. Super glad you can join
11 for this panel.

12 And each of you -- we're going to start with our
13 first question. Each of you brings an important
14 perspective representing different priorities and actions
15 within communities. Please describe how your organization
16 is helping to activate tribal and local energy action,
17 while promoting greater equity and access for all.

18 And so we're going to hear from each of our
19 panelists. We're going to start with Michelle, who's
20 actually joining us remotely.

21 MS. SEVILLA: Magandang Hapon Good afternoon,
22 everyone. Michelle Sevilla, she/they/ze pronouns. And as
23 mentioned before, I am the outgoing Network Manager of the
24 Central Coast Climate Justice Network. I know that we have
25 a longer title, so if -- you also are welcome to abbreviate

1 us as C3JN.

2 Just a little bit about C3JN, is that we are a
3 collaboration of organizations and community leaders
4 committed to a more aligned climate justice movement that
5 advances social, economic, racial and environmental justice
6 for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and with expanded
7 interest in San Luis Obispo. We actually just formally
8 expanded to now include San Luis Obispo leaders into our
9 jurisdiction, so we are quickly expanding. And through
10 this network, we are forging a regional partnership across
11 these Tri County region between social justice, antiracism,
12 and environmental groups and movements.

13 So again, we're focused on advancing restorative
14 actions for our region and our communities and changing of
15 the systems that disadvantaged us in the first place. Our
16 work, again, centers on communities who bear the greatest
17 burden of climate change impacts.

18 In C3JN's spaces, we prioritize BIPOC leadership,
19 and by prioritize, I mean that to the fullest extent. We
20 have deviated from the standard path of just letting
21 community leaders come to us and, instead, conducted
22 meaningful and respectful outreach and relationship
23 building to our BIPOC community leaders.

24 We are now approaching our fifth year in
25 existence. And in our early years, each step that we took

1 and decision we've made has upheld our commitment to
2 building strong foundations of trust, and addressing
3 historical tensions and current disagreements because we
4 will never always be on the same page but, again, always
5 working toward a more aligned climate justice movement.
6 And finally, planning for and realizing a future that is
7 climate friendly and redresses the systems that put
8 marginalized communities in the throes of climate change in
9 the first place.

10 In terms of tribal leadership, this
11 representation has been at the forefront of our decision
12 making since the very beginning. We follow our Native
13 leaders in their approach to consulting other local tribe
14 groups because, also, we have to honor that the -- as
15 illustrated by the really fascinating projects that we've
16 heard in the morning session, that each history is so --
17 and each local place is so unique in terms of the various
18 histories and systems and longtime decisions that were made
19 a long time ago that were conducive to oppressing certain
20 groups.

21 And so we have understanding that there are some
22 tensions, and among or between our groups, whether that be
23 tribal bands between environmental social justice groups
24 or, you know, labor groups, what have you, all of those
25 disparate disagreements, that we follow their leadership,

1 and we are not in a position to make those decisions for
2 them. How we approach them and respectfully and always
3 aiming for respectful, free prior and informed consent,
4 principles and approaches for all of these projects and
5 major decisions that will affect our Native Tribal Leaders,
6 their lands, their community members, as well as the
7 community at large.

8 So again, we ensure that by following our Native
9 Elders, who have been ingrained and have been a part of,
10 you know, the various local/state best practices in terms
11 of consulting tribal groups, and of course sorting amongst
12 ourselves and greater -- again, positioning ourselves for a
13 more aligned climate justice movement to understand where
14 all of our positions are. Again, we are working towards
15 free prior and informed consent for these major decisions
16 that are going to be affecting us. We honor also, as well,
17 their traditional environmental ecological knowledge, or
18 commonly abbreviated as TEK, which has been acquired over
19 generations and whose knowledge has been confirmed again
20 and again by Western science and scientific methods.

21 I hope that illustrates a little bit of C3JN, but
22 I am happy and looking forward to the conversations that --
23 I'm here with my fellow panelists, and just very
24 appreciative for IEPR and for our CEC leaders and other
25 community members who are participating in today's

1 conversation.

2 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Michelle. Really excited
3 to hear more of your thoughts, and thanks for being here.

4 Next up, Alajandra Tellez from the County of
5 Ventura.

6 MS. TELLEZ: Thank you. Alajandra Tellez with
7 the County of Ventura.

8 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Oh, Alajandra, try going
9 closer, or we can switch. You want to try this one? This
10 one works well.

11 MS. HACKER: We're doing a quick mic swap.

12 MS. TELLEZ: Okay. Got it. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Sorry. Oh, I'm so sorry.

14 MS. TELLEZ: Okay. Now it's working, I think.

15 I had a couple of slides, but I can go ahead and
16 start.

17 So county of Ventura am Alajandra Tellez -- just
18 kind of to -- thank you for the opportunity -- to kind of
19 answer your question, I'll give you a little bit of history
20 of what the county has been doing and how, pretty much, our
21 division developed.

22 So we have three major initiatives that we have
23 forward. So we focus on our own county internal programs,
24 so our facilities, our county employees, the work that we
25 do. And then we also focus on our regional effort, so we

1 have Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, and that's
2 more of County of Ventura, the city's special districts,
3 school districts, community colleges, and that's more to do
4 regional work. This area has been around for almost 20
5 years, and that's -- we decided to kind of do a more
6 regional collaboration to -- you know, it's better to kind
7 of work together. And then our third initiative, it's the
8 Tri-County Regional Energy Network. And we've decided to
9 go a little bigger, so we are the County of San Luis
10 Obispo, County of Santa Barbara, and County of Ventura.

11 And we have three programs that we that we have.
12 We have an Energy Efficiency Program, Building Performance
13 Training, which is workforce education and training, and
14 Energy Code Connect, which is codes and standards. And we
15 just got approved by the PUC to run those three programs
16 because they just connect. We wanted to have home energy
17 efficiency but we needed the right workforce, and we needed
18 the work to be done up to code, so we just thought those
19 were the three programs that we wanted to begin with.

20 Next slide.

21 A little bit of more information about VCREA,
22 which is our longest regional partnership. It was PUC
23 mandated and it started to receive funding in about 2003,
24 and it was dependent on utility funding for almost 12
25 years. So we did just public facilities, energy

1 efficiency, low-hanging fruit, LED, all that work. But
2 then we slowly started to see that we needed to kind of
3 expand a little bit. And ARRA funding helped us get more
4 staff capacity and kind of get staff into the county of
5 Ventura. And that's when we kind of started to move into
6 like, let's move into solar, let's move into electric
7 vehicles, so started to get different types of funding.
8 Eventually the utility funding went away recently, so we're
9 now solely dependent on several California Energy
10 Commission grants to do electric vehicle and to do
11 different work.

12 But I think one of one of the major things of
13 these two areas is that regional collaboration, dependent
14 on grant funding, but just that regional work makes
15 difference. And that's how we've been able to get Ventura
16 move forward, especially in the current electric vehicle
17 work that we're doing.

18 Next slide.

19 Wanted to highlight the work of 3C-REN. As you
20 may be aware, the counties of the Tri-County area, we're at
21 the end of the territory of Edison. Edison territory ends
22 halfway across Santa Barbara, and then we're at the end of
23 the territory of PG&E, which ends in the half of Santa
24 Barbara, so we're -- we don't get a lot of services that
25 they provide. One of those is Workforce Education and

1 Training, so that's why we have our Building Performance
2 Training and Energy Code Connect.

3 And Tri-County Regional Energy Work started in
4 2019. And I wanted to highlight the workforce training
5 that we've been offering for the past three years. A
6 little bit of it had to do with a little bit with the
7 pandemic, and there's a lot of virtual, but these are
8 events that have been hosted in our three counties to a
9 workforce for that has never had that type of training
10 before, so we're excited to highlight those types of
11 trainings. And once again, it was just we wanted a
12 workforce to be ready for the technology's coming, and we
13 wanted to make sure that it was up to standards and --
14 codes and standards. Energy Code Connect is one of those
15 one of those main drivers.

16 I think that's it.

17 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Alajandra, and thanks for
18 demonstrating what kinds of work local governments are
19 doing to provide services on the ground for their
20 communities. And, you know, 3C-REN is one of four RENs
21 around the state. I just wanted to mention that there are
22 others operating in the Bay Area, L.A., and now the
23 Riverside area, the Inland Empire.

24 Okay, so next up we have Alexis Rizzo from the
25 Community Environmental Council.

1 MS. RIZO: Hello, everyone. Just making sure
2 that everyone can hear me. Great. Hello.

3 Yeah, so I'm representing Community Environmental
4 Council. We're an environmental nonprofit. We build
5 grassroots programs. We educate the community on
6 environmental issues and advocate for bold and equitable
7 policies in the Tri-Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa
8 Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

9 Next slide, please.

10 Our mission is to put California on track for an
11 equitable climate-safe future by 2030.

12 Next slide, please.

13 And the challenge right now is that we must seize
14 this moment by enacting bold policies required by science
15 and to bring on the scale -- to bring -- bringing to scale
16 on-the-ground solutions.

17 Next slide, please.

18 We have more than 70 programmatic and policy
19 goals at Community Environmental Council, and I'm here to
20 highlight some of our energy program projects. And this
21 visual shows CEC's impact at a glance from 2021. And I
22 want to bring attention to our work that we've done on EV
23 charging stations.

24 If you go to the next slide, you can see the
25 impact at a glance. There we go.

1 Our EV charging stations, we've helped low-income
2 community members gain access to state and federal
3 incentives, as well as local incentives through central --
4 their Community Choice Energy programs. We actually had a
5 grant with Electrify America to give one-on-one education
6 and incentive education for community members. We have
7 also advocated for access to 100 percent renewable energy
8 through Community Choice Energy, helping residents and
9 nonprofits gain access to solar and energy storage systems
10 as well. And I just want to make note that Community
11 Environmental Council was one of the leading organizations
12 on the Central Coast for advocating for Community Choice
13 Energy programs over a decade ago.

14 In addition, we also do a lot of policy work. We
15 do a lot of policy advocacy around building
16 electrification, like I mentioned, 100 percent renewables
17 through Community Choice Energy. And we want to make sure
18 disadvantaged communities that have been historically
19 burdened by pollution have an opportunity to engage in
20 planning processes and the formal planning processes.

21 We do a lot of grassroots organizing, as well,
22 and we are involved in local climate coalitions that are
23 run by residents, and we help to mobilize community members
24 and other stakeholders.

25 We also have a grant with the Los Angeles Clean

1 Tech Incubator to accelerate Clean Energy Economy in Santa
2 Barbara and Ventura Counties by connecting emerging clean
3 tech startups with the L.A. Clean Tech Incubator programs,
4 grant opportunities, and pilot projects.

5 We also work to advance green workforce
6 development in our region. And we also help the Port of
7 Hueneme and affiliated trucking companies to electrify
8 their fleets.

9 We also have co-founded the Central Coast Climate
10 Justice Network, which mission is to forge a regional
11 partnership between social justice and environmental
12 movements to expand our collective power so we can advance
13 restorative actions and systems' change centering on
14 communities who bear the greatest burden of climate change
15 impacts.

16 And I just want to appreciate the CEC for
17 allowing us to share our work, our initiatives, and our EJ
18 priorities in our region.

19 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Alexis. Great to have
20 you here. And I can attest to the local residents that the
21 Community Environmental Council is a real power player
22 around here.

23 Next up we've got Kathleen Mallory from the City
24 of Oxnard.

25 MS. MALLORY: Great, thank you. I'm not sure if

1 you have my slides but, yeah, thank you so much. Great.

2 So as an introduction, I just want to thank the
3 CEC for having this, and also for my panelists, my fellow
4 panelists, for some really good discussion and dialogue.

5 So I think I bring a really unique perspective,
6 because I'm the Planning and Sustainability Manager, but I,
7 also, I work on land use, housing, tenant housing policies.
8 I'm responsible for the city's Eight Year Housing Plan, the
9 Regional Housing Needs Assessment approach for dealing with
10 how to meet the state's mandate.

11 Additionally, the city's Climate Action and
12 Adaptation Plan, which will be hopefully approved by
13 Council in early October, and the transit BMP issues, sea
14 level rise, and the sort.

15 So this is an interesting time to be a
16 professional planner. All that fun issues our shop
17 manages, and then pepper in a little bit of cannabis and
18 managing that program, managing the program.

19 So with that, I just I wanted to really focus
20 on -- next slide, please.

21 kind of my takeaway with this was, you know, what
22 can the state do to assist with clean energy and actions at
23 the local level? And I have some suggestions. One is
24 providing incentives and funding for local energy
25 generation and solutions for clean energy investment in

1 affordable housing. I'll start on that slide first.

2 As I mentioned, I've been responsible for the
3 city's approach to address the eight-year housing
4 requirements. The city's done an amazing job in
5 production. And what I found is really interesting is,
6 through that process, I saw the issue of the state saying,
7 provide the housing, but yet not necessarily having a lot
8 of concerns regarding infrastructure, including water
9 availability. So I really feel that our community could
10 benefit from added money to assist in the housing
11 construction, the infrastructure, as well as implementation
12 of the CAAP, our Climate Action Adaptation Plan, which I'll
13 talk about in just a moment.

14 And it's interesting to me is, you know, if
15 we're -- if we have the requirements for affordable
16 housing, which we welcome and we endorse, why can't there
17 be a connection between renewable energy, local energy
18 generation on those affordable housing projects?

19 I am aware of a variety of programs that are out
20 there, but yet there's not a you construct affordable
21 housing, you -- we're going to outright give you the solar
22 free and clear, and that's -- our community needs that.
23 Our residents need that. And I believe that also aligns
24 with the city's climate action adaptation goals of
25 providing local providing local renewable energy. You

1 pepper that with the disadvantaged community issues and
2 this just is ripe for why aren't we doing this?
3 Additionally, the removal of and the elimination of
4 redevelopment funding, again, this makes a lot of sense, at
5 least in my professional opinion.

6 So local energy generation is not only an energy
7 equity issue, it's an environmental justice issue. And
8 targeting programs that are aligned with the state's
9 climate and environmental justice goals, these all just, in
10 my opinion, resonate and make sense here. Gap funding to
11 help with developers to facilitate affordable housing, it
12 all just makes sense.

13 Additionally, when you look at what communities
14 are paying and residents are paying with utility bills
15 right now, a lot of residents are actually just having to
16 make choices between feeding families and paying their
17 utility bill. So when energy costs have skyrocketed and
18 local distributed energy can be achieved through affordable
19 housing projects, this seems like it is a no-brainer, and
20 feasible if deep credits and funding for energy
21 infrastructure is provided to jurisdictions and affordable
22 housing developers.

23 Next slide, please.

24 This is one of -- another interesting slide. I
25 have really three slides and I wanted to hit these three

1 points.

2 The next is the city's Climate Action Adaptation
3 Plan. It provides for a series of recommendations to
4 achieve the city's adopted Greenhouse Gas Emission
5 Reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
6 The CAAP recommends Distributed Energy Resources, including
7 solar generation and energy generation.

8 We need ongoing funding for that. Our CAAP is a
9 fantastic document that provides recommendations and a
10 roadmap for our municipal and community energy initiatives.
11 The CAAP implements the state sustainability initiatives
12 and provides for climate resilience and sustainability
13 efforts. And we appreciate some of the CPA programs,
14 including the Power Share and PowerReady Program. But when
15 we adopt the CAAP, why should we just be the city that
16 funds it and we're improving overall community resilience
17 and regional community resilience?

18 Jurisdictions should be incentivized to prepare
19 and adopt the CAAP, and then receive incentive money. If
20 you have a CAAP, make grants formula-based, not
21 competitive. Regional climate collaboratives should
22 receive funding and implement global energy procurement.
23 Take procurement burden off local jurisdictions. That
24 happened with the EECBG money. There's regional
25 procurement contracts for light bulbs, it worked great. We

1 partnered with VCREA, the county, it worked great. Can we
2 not have the same for EV procurement across the board? An
3 EV procurement company that is hired by a regional
4 collaborative, you just jump on, piggyback it, you're
5 great.

6 Programs aren't meant -- programs are needed.
7 Currently we're not getting full cost. Let me restate
8 that. Programs aren't meeting full cost of the needs.

9 So, for example, we really appreciate the EV
10 grant programs. The CALeVIP, the Charge Ready 2.0, we
11 appreciate the work, and we think the VCREA is doing a
12 fantastic job, and we applaud Alajandra. Thank you.

13 The programs, those great programs, do not cover
14 the full cost of infrastructure upgrades or lines. We need
15 that full cost coverage. We have deficient infrastructure
16 that we're using money for and so we've had to make
17 choices.

18 Next slide. Thank you. This is my last slide.
19 I'll hurry.

20 And this is something I'm really passionate
21 about, if I wasn't on the other two; right? You know, what
22 can the state do to facilitate additional water sources and
23 make water sustainable? Because when you look at water,
24 energy, alternative water, it's all -- they all go hand in
25 hand. Alternative water is water supplied by sustainable

1 sources that can be used to offset the city's water use.

2 So just to hit a couple of high-level things,
3 what can the city, what can the state do to approve
4 additional water sources and make water more sustainable,
5 approve indirect potable reuse, known as IPR. State law
6 currently doesn't allow it. And right now the Regional
7 Water Quality Control Board is piloting a project in
8 Oxnard. And during a drought this -- and we have no time
9 to waste. The IPR program is already being used in Orange
10 County. Why are we waiting? We have water right there.
11 The state should immediately authorize the use of certain
12 technologies and means of addressing the drought. We have
13 it let's do it. Why are we waiting?

14 Second, allow indirect potable reuse, known as
15 DPR, and basically that's the treatment and distribution
16 without an environmental buffer. Water from our recycled
17 water facility and blending it with other sources, again,
18 providing water to our customers, we should -- that should
19 immediately be authorized as a mean of addressing the
20 drought. Excuse me. If it was approved tomorrow, we could
21 take our wastewater treatment plant to full current
22 capacity, produce more water, send the water to people's
23 homes instead of using state water. Again, added water,
24 added costs, added housing costs, it all fits together.

25 And in fact, there's a white paper that the

1 Governor put out but he says that he would be authorizing
2 this in 2023. We want that and we support that.

3 Finally, changing the water structure of water
4 rates so that water is cheaper in wet years and allows the
5 storage within the basins. This is a basic market
6 philosophy and approach, make water more expensive when
7 there's less; right? That would allow the city to purchase
8 more water in wet years and store this water until needed,
9 for example, in times of drought or even emergency.

10 Look what's happening right now in Jackson,
11 Mississippi, great example. Water is cut off, you bring in
12 FEMA for water. We get cut off from the State Water
13 Project, there's an issue right there. So we purchase
14 water in wet years and we adjust the rates, meaning the
15 city would purchase more at a cheaper rate, thereby
16 overbuying, then storing it in our basin for dry years in
17 the event of an emergency or drought. It helps everyone.
18 This is true sustainability.

19 Thank you. I'll end with that.

20 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Kathleen.

21 And our next and last person to just tell us a
22 little bit more about how their organization is helping to
23 activate tribal and local energy action while promoting
24 greater equity and access for all is Dustin Jolley from
25 OurEnergy.

1 Do we have you on remote?

2 MR. JOLLEY: I am on remote. Just a quick sound
3 check here. Everybody hearing me and seeing me okay?

4 MS. HACKER: Yeah. Thank you. Hi.

5 MR. JOLLEY: Great. Hi. Well, thanks so much
6 Angie, and thanks everybody, Commissioners, general public
7 and my fellow panelists here on this. This is a topic
8 that's close to my heart personally and important to us as
9 a company as well.

10 You can go to the next slide, Angie. Thanks.

11 So again, Dustin Jolley here, Principal and found
12 founder of OurEnergy. OurEnergy is an engineering and
13 advisory company. We also provide direct project
14 development and development services. We're headquartered
15 right here in Santa Cruz on the Central Coast.

16 And we have a broad focus, to some degree, on
17 sustainable infrastructure and low impact development,
18 mainly focused on renewables, but also have really carved a
19 niche in recent years in hybrid renewable energy projects,
20 integrated utilities, and infrastructure modernization.
21 And we really like to put these things all together when
22 possible in our projects and programs including, of course,
23 DERs, electric vehicle infrastructure, water energy nexus,
24 and the improvement of utilities, and access and equity,
25 importantly, all the way across the board to all those

1 critical services.

2 We're providing this work and doing this work in
3 California, of course, and on the Central Coast, across the
4 U.S. And we're also very actively participating in this
5 work in a number of emerging markets within the US, but
6 also across the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean,
7 and in Africa.

8 Next slide, please.

9 So to get to the questions that Angie posed here,
10 I really thought about this from a couple of different
11 perspectives, and I realize there's a lot of words here but
12 I'll paraphrase.

13 Really, the first one is how do we as a company
14 go about activating local participation and engagement
15 related to the initiatives that we're talking about here
16 today? And the way that I thought about it really was from
17 two points of view. One is from the top-down approach, so
18 to speak, and that's really participating in events and
19 venues like this and supporting, generally, government and
20 utilities in crafting and implementing forward thinking
21 policies and programs. And then, of course, there's the
22 bottoms-up approach, if you will, grassroots participation
23 in the local community and through direct action of, in our
24 case, promoting, originating, and then developing these
25 forward-thinking projects in our community.

1 And the second question that Angie posed, or an
2 angle on this is, again, how do we as a company
3 specifically go about doing both of those things from
4 either perspective? And the way that I think about that
5 is, one, supporting in a supporting role as an advisor,
6 again, and we provide the services in an advisory capacity,
7 everything from full scope owners' engineering services to
8 various different utilities and public agencies and private
9 companies and including for tribes, and we've been really
10 thankful to have that be a throughline for my career and
11 for our company.

12 And this is some work that we've also been doing
13 with the with the Prosper team that's been mentioned today.
14 This also might include crafting ordinances and codes and
15 standards or incentives or various programs in capacity
16 building and technical assistance and in helping these
17 important local leaders lead by example. And then, of
18 course, providing a conduit between the private industry
19 and government leadership.

20 And then the second one is as an implementer, in
21 our case as a developer of actual projects. And as far as
22 these types of environmental justice, energy access, and
23 equity type projects go, we see no reason why we can't do
24 good business, developing projects with these important
25 attributes. And those might include municipal projects, of

1 course, or other innovative public-private type of
2 arrangements, supporting community organizations at the
3 grassroots level, and then, of course, with other tribal
4 and self-governance energy independence type work here in
5 the United States and abroad.

6 Next slide, please, Angie.

7 Okay, and just drilling a little bit deeper on
8 that, this is a bit of an overview on community energy
9 models and why we're focused on this, and why we think
10 there's some uniqueness to community energy development
11 work, and why it has some unique value. And right up at
12 the top here, we tried to capture it in a couple of quick
13 points.

14 One is that community energy projects really
15 uniquely engage local engagement, local access, and most
16 importantly, perhaps, a local economic multiplier effect
17 that is sort of hard to unlock and maybe not even present
18 in other larger regional, you know, or other broad
19 infrastructure development work. And so we think that
20 there's sound business principles embedded in this type of
21 local development, as well as all the other benefits that
22 we're talking about here in the workshop today.

23 So just to touch on a couple of these very
24 quickly, these could include community-critical
25 infrastructure and facilities. Obviously, there's a direct

1 local benefit to bringing resilience in renewables access
2 to local governments and community facilities. There's the
3 community solar movement that I think has a lot of traction
4 outside of California. California has kind of had its own
5 rifts on this and it's kind of coming back around. There
6 is some pending legislation in AB 2316 to bring this back
7 into the fold in California specifically. But, really,
8 those community energy-type projects provide a unique
9 opportunity for folks in our community to participate in
10 large scale -- or renewables development at scale, and
11 particularly for those that might not have their own home
12 or real estate to develop on and enjoy those benefits, or
13 the financial means for that matter.

14 Another important local example, and this is one
15 that Katrina actually mentioned, in particular, we had -- I
16 know there's some interest in the work that we've done with
17 the City of Gonzales, and a few other local cities and
18 municipalities in our region, but I think there is a really
19 important role for the -- a municipality or through the
20 context of a local authority having jurisdiction being
21 formed to provide these services. And that could be
22 through a publicly owned utility, a special district, or
23 some other context like that, and then, of course, directly
24 with our cities.

25 You know, I'm glad that Kathleen was right before

1 me. I understand that, you know, a person in her position
2 has a lot of competing priorities and, you know, providing
3 energy-specific programs from the municipal perspective
4 really takes a local champion, most importantly. And so I
5 wanted to emphasize that that's one thing that our regional
6 governments can definitely do to try to, you know, provide
7 some more horsepower behind these efforts on the ground.

8 And then, of course, you know, I wanted to touch
9 briefly on some of the more regional constructs that have
10 that have come into play recently, particularly in
11 California with Community Choice Aggregation. And then,
12 you know, the IOUs, the utilities themselves also, as the
13 folks in this workshop can appreciate, have an emerging
14 mandate to roll out similar programs, notably PG&E's
15 Community Microgrid Enablement Program. I know the other
16 Southern California utilities are following suit, Solar
17 Choice and a few others.

18 So maybe I'll leave that there for now. Thanks,
19 Angie.

20 MS. HACKER: Yes, so it's no accident that we had
21 a good cross section. We saw we have a city, we have a
22 county running regional programs, we have an NGO here, we
23 have a CBO. We actually tried to get tribal representation
24 here. We tried to get a CCA as well, but here it is. It
25 takes a village. This is the kind of work happening at

1 local level.

2 So our next question for the panel.

3 California must accelerate clean energy action
4 within communities to meet its ambitious energy and climate
5 goals as expressed by the Governor, CEC, the PUC, CARB, and
6 other agencies. I want to hear from you all, from your
7 perspective, what are the key needs, challenges and
8 barriers related to local energy action in the communities
9 that you serve? And if you could talk a little bit, also,
10 about your disadvantaged communities and what particular
11 needs they have?

12 And I'm going to start with you, Alexis from CEC,
13 because I think you guys have been doing an assessment on
14 this.

15 MS. RIZO: Yes. Yeah.

16 And I just want to, also, as an overview, just
17 that there are many compounding barriers to access that
18 prevent folks in these communities from participating in
19 energy and climate goals and, you know, such as language
20 barriers, cultural barriers, work and family schedules.
21 And also when engagement is well done, there seems to be a
22 lack of a follow-up or involvement of communities during
23 the implementation processes as well.

24 And at Community Environmental Council, and I
25 spoke to this a little bit during my introduction, we have

1 a grant with the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator. And
2 right now what we are currently doing is a Community Needs
3 Assessment in West Ventura, as well as Oxnard communities,
4 in the disadvantaged communities and pertaining to
5 CalEnviroScreen, just to get a pinpoint of what are the
6 local energy needs in the community? Where does a lack of
7 education, and where does the education stand right now in
8 those communities? And this is really important as we
9 transition to new clean tech energy, that we just want to
10 make sure that these communities aren't left behind.

11 So right now we're in the survey portion of that
12 study. And so I can definitely drop a link into the chat.
13 We are conducting a survey right now for local industrial
14 and commercial property owners, as well as multifamily
15 property owners to conduct the study. Mid-September, we'll
16 also be hosting focus groups for community members to
17 become involved in the needs assessment, so --

18 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Alexis.

19 And Michelle, I see you nodding there, so I
20 wonder if you want to tack on to that same question? Uh-
21 oh, we can't hear you. That's okay. Why don't you work on
22 your mic, and we'll -- I'll come back around?

23 Okay, Alajandra, would you like to go next?

24 MS. TELLEZ: Yeah. I think one of the things
25 that I think from the previous panel, and then currently,

1 we all can identify barriers; right? Like, we have a long
2 list of barriers.

3 I think one of the things that we're trying to
4 tackle is where do we find those barriers? How about we do
5 barrier-finding, before we actually give a grant or
6 something new? Like, we already know there's barriers for
7 you to adopt electrical heat-pump water heaters. So how
8 about we fund those barriers so we can get in there and
9 kind of be able to install those new technologies and have
10 that be available?

11 Renewable, solar is great, but how about we fund
12 maybe -- we cannot give everybody a brand new roof, but
13 kind of fund those barriers to kind of get battery
14 renewable into local community.

15 I think that's one of the things that we're
16 seeing with our programs, is that we want our disadvantaged
17 communities, or low income or underserved, to take
18 advantage of all these new technologies coming. But just
19 from the long history of not participating in programs, or
20 of just not being aware of them, they're at a disadvantage,
21 and those barriers just become bigger and bigger as new
22 technologies come. So we need to be able to fund those
23 barriers to keep moving them forward, instead of just
24 making that gap bigger and longer.

25 We have electrification coming. The early

1 adopters are going to take electrification, but our
2 disadvantaged and lower-income communities, how much longer
3 it's going to take for them to take electrification?
4 Certainly, we need to be able to fund those barriers and
5 making sure that we're not just leaving them behind longer
6 and longer as we're taking on new technologies and kind of
7 bringing that forward.

8 MS. HACKER: Thank you.

9 And Michelle, do we have you back?

10 MS. SEVILLA: Testing, 1-2-3?

11 MS. HACKER: Yes.

12 MS. SEVILLA: Perfect. Sorry about that.

13 I think that there really isn't too much to add
14 on to what Alejandra and Alexis have already shared, just
15 that, of course, with the energy needs, I think that in
16 order to better serve our communities, that we are going to
17 continue crafting the spaces that we have wanted to see
18 from, you know, local governments, state federal
19 governments that have been -- these community members have
20 been trying to provide access to these spaces for a long
21 time in the midst of societies where, you know, we, until
22 recently, have just celebrated the anniversary of the ADA
23 Act, started making spaces more intentionally accessible
24 for those with physical and mental disabilities, language
25 access issues, on top of the other, you know, demographics

1 that Alejandra shared, that we -- I think the needs are
2 continuing to support the spaces that have been crafted by
3 and for community members, as Alexis had mentioned, that we
4 are co-founded by CEC and our Community Environmental
5 Council helps you access both with CEC on our Commissioners
6 there, but CAUSE as well.

7 That, you know, these community-serving
8 organizations and all the people that we have intention to
9 reach out to, to reach API, to reach Black folks, people of
10 color, youth leadership programs to, you know, specifically
11 Latinos, but you know, Latinos, Latinas, Latinx, and
12 Hispanic-serving bodies, to be a part of the Justice
13 Network, that over five years, it was painstaking to create
14 a space that we have all -- we have confidence and trust
15 amongst each other.

16 And so I think the need for expanding capacity
17 for community leaders so they can continue meaningfully
18 participating in these spaces -- because C3JN has already
19 been tapped on several times by local county government
20 officials, as well as our collective expertise and
21 knowledge, because of these community-based organizations,
22 as well as the constituents that we serve. And so
23 expanding capacity again for these community leaders and
24 continuing to support these organizations, these spaces
25 that are trusted, and for folks to come to networks and

1 spaces like ours, would be a great help, I think, in both
2 directions.

3 MS. HACKER: Thank you, Michelle.

4 And, yeah, I hope at some point today, in today's
5 conversation, we really get to have a conversation about
6 what are some strategic realistic ways -- what does the
7 architecture look like to do this engagement in a way that
8 doesn't overburden the people that are trying to be
9 reached? What can we do so that isn't what -- we're trying
10 to do our best, we're not piling on 1000 new things for
11 people that don't have the resources to do them with all
12 the best intentions of the world. So I think that
13 conversation is going to continue later this afternoon.

14 I wonder, Kathleen or Dustin, if you'd like to
15 chime in here a little bit about the needs that you're
16 seeing from your neck of the woods before our next
17 question?

18 MR. JOLLEY: Kathleen, please go ahead.

19 MS. MALLORY: Thank you, Dustin. I'll go
20 quickly.

21 I think, I mean I made it really clear, I think,
22 you know, funding is clearly an issue, competing needs in a
23 jurisdiction, so also considering programs that are
24 targeted to the demographic. And I appreciate the DAC
25 component. What if there was also a targeting of programs

1 by renters and a renter-based program? I mean, you really
2 have to incentivize some of these property owners. There's
3 no incentive for them if they're not if they're, you know,
4 if they just have a rental as a cash cow. So thinking in
5 creative solutions towards the challenges, barriers, and
6 local needs, I think it takes some creativity.

7 And with that, I'll turn it over to Dustin.

8 MR. JOLLEY: Yeah. Thanks, Kathleen.

9 And I think I can keep my comments pretty brief
10 on this. I don't want to state the obvious but it seems
11 that from our perspective, what we hear so often is a lack
12 of resources and the lack of bandwidth at the local level.
13 And, you know, this question, I think, is -- you know, gets
14 at the heart of different pathways to build those
15 resources.

16 And so maybe what I'd like to part with here as I
17 know we're kind of winding down on time is, you know, just
18 encouraging the Commission and the Commissioners to
19 continue to innovate around how we can bring these
20 resources from the top, from the state level, and even
21 accessing federal resources, down to the hyperlocal level.
22 And that could be in the form of, you know, strategic and
23 very purpose-built funding pathways, of course, to not only
24 bring on local capacity and do capacity-building, so that,
25 you know, Kathleen, instead of being, for example, a one

1 woman show this to solve it all from a sustainability
2 perspective, you know, could have a whole team around her
3 ideally at the city working on these things; right? And
4 then I would go call up the person that's focused on energy
5 specifically, and we would go do some of this work
6 together; right?

7 So I think that's going to be my input there, is
8 really trying to figure out how to funnel funds and
9 resources down to the local agencies and organizations, but
10 also to industry that is targeted, you know, that
11 incentivizes industry to provide some of this assistance as
12 well.

13 MS. HACKER: Alright. Thanks, panel.

14 So we're going to turn our attention now to kind
15 of thinking about, what do we do about it? What do we do
16 about all these needs?

17 So your organizations are obviously doing a lot
18 to transition to a clean energy future for all, but there's
19 a lot left to do in our communities. So how can the
20 state -- you're already starting to kind of help them. You
21 know, that's part of why we're here is to help provide some
22 input to the state, to help unlock -- how do we unlock
23 local potential? How can the state help in a way that
24 complements the long standing leadership and expertise
25 already in place within tribes and communities, like the

1 kind of expertise that you guys are providing in in the
2 Central Coast?

3 I think in this case, maybe I'll start with
4 Kathleen.

5 MS. MALLORY: I feel like I just was called on
6 from school; right?

7 MS. HACKER: Sorry.

8 MS. MALLORY: It's okay because I always tell my
9 kids to pay attention and study.

10 I mean, I certainly appreciate all the comments,
11 from Dustin's to the panel. So it's complimenting, it's
12 layering, its creativity. I feel like in some ways I've
13 talked a bit about this.

14 We would love to be able to have a pot of money
15 where it just is here's what you need, here's what you have
16 to divvy up for whatever your needs are in your community,
17 but as it relates to climate, housing, and sustainability.
18 And, actually, if you're a city that provides water or if
19 you're a full-service city, like our awesome Oxnard is, you
20 get a different tier of funding, and so we'd like to see
21 something of that nature.

22 So I'll close with that.

23 MS. HACKER: Alajandra?

24 MS. TELLEZ: I mean, I think as the local
25 government, I always say funding; right?

1 But I think other than funding, I think for state
2 to use those local resources that are already there, those
3 local partnerships that have developed over time, you know,
4 the environmental councils and environmental CAUSE, you
5 know, the Regional Energy Network and VCREA and things like
6 that, that's already -- there's already a network there.

7 And then I'm starting to see that with new grants
8 coming in starting to fund CBOs to start to build capacity,
9 so something like that, starting to kind of pay attention
10 to the smaller nonprofits, the smaller local governments
11 that have joined together that have those boots on the
12 ground that can tell you what is going on in my community.
13 It might take a little bit for them to kind of be up to
14 date on all the energy technology and all the things coming
15 down. But I think if you focus on networks that are
16 already there that maybe have never done energy before but
17 are willing to do it now, and they just know the community
18 and they know what the community needs, I think that that
19 would make that difference.

20 I know when you apply for a grant, it's always
21 very competitive, and you're like, oh, like the big, you
22 know, big cities are applying. Like am I, you know, small
23 City of Ojai, am I going to have a chance to kind of
24 compete with Bay Area or L.A. County? I think when you
25 when you see a regional section or regional governments

1 kind of pay attention to those networks that are already
2 kind of set in place and kind of give them that attention,
3 that may provide an added benefit to a grant.

4 MS. HACKER: Thank you, great.

5 You know, my bird's-eye view, I see the tribes
6 and local governments and a lot of cities asking for the
7 same things. It's overwhelming the level of things that
8 there are to track and do and the potential that's out
9 there. There is a way, I think, to take the ingredients
10 that we have and streamline it so that it's more accessible
11 without having to constantly reinvent the wheel for every
12 new initiative. And I think what we're hearing is that
13 folks want to be engaged, they just want it to be a little
14 less complex.

15 So I'd love to ask anybody else on the panel, if
16 they want to respond to that question about, you know, how
17 can the state help unlock local potential?

18 MS. RIZO: Yeah, I can hop in a little bit.

19 And I think I just want to echo Kathleen with the
20 creativity of local funding investments. And one example
21 that I can give is just infrastructure investments. You
22 know, electric vehicles are great in this transition, but
23 you know, there still are individuals and families in these
24 communities who may or may not have a car and may not want
25 one or may not have the capacity to bring one into their

1 household.

2 And so in addition to building infrastructure to
3 plot EV adoption, why we don't want to give the impression
4 to longstanding residents that, you know, as they see more
5 infrastructure being built in their local grocery store
6 parking lots, that they no longer fit into the community.
7 So we do need well paved streets, we do need bike and
8 public transportation. And so let's look at also pairing
9 these big state fundings with microgrants for multimodal
10 transportation investments to make multimodal mobility safe
11 and accessible to all the residents in the communities.

12 I think, also, we need to pay attention to issues
13 of housing and housing affordability and security, which is
14 very much a climate and energy justice issue. So making
15 sure that energy investments do not result in
16 gentrification or rising housing costs, rather that they're
17 considered an essential element of community health and
18 that cannot be used to drive folks out and create wealth
19 for others.

20 MS. HACKER: Thanks, Alexis.

21 Michelle or Dustin, I want to make sure you have
22 a chance.

23 MS. SEVILLA: Thank you.

24 I think that one of the things that we are also
25 struggling with is, of course, the resources, and

1 struggling with just to -- you know, because I can really
2 only speak for C3JN, is that we have been struggling again
3 with the capacity issues in order to meaningfully
4 participate.

5 So, because we are kind of this new, you know,
6 budding organization and we have just launched publicly,
7 you know, in late Fall of 2021, where we are kind of caught
8 in this catch-22. And, by all accounts, similar
9 organizations that work in the EJJCJ space are enduring the
10 same obstacles of, you know, from my experience, part-time
11 staff, like my Network Manager position but, you know,
12 there was not enough time for me to conduct all of my work
13 in the paid window that I was given to do the day-to-day
14 activities, again, as Dustin was using the term of, you
15 know, the one-person show, to conduct the day-to-day
16 activities to keep the network running, to doing long-term
17 planning, such as grant planning, and making sure that
18 we're meeting deadlines and while trying to make it all
19 again within a paid window, and not having to offer, which
20 of course was not the case, and having to prevent as much
21 as possible volunteering our time when, you know, honestly,
22 we would have lost wages.

23 And so trying to unpair ourselves from how the
24 grant systems are kind of underpinning the various
25 obstacles where small organizations and spaces like C3JN

1 have to compete in the same, you know, grants' market and
2 competitions as our more well-funded and robust
3 counterparts, is really difficult.

4 And so I think that it really prevents us from
5 doing really meaningful planning in terms of our
6 participation and continue to create -- have and give this
7 space and our services and, again, collective knowledge to
8 local governments, state and federal government bodies and
9 agencies who have asked to come to us for our, you know,
10 ground-truth experiences where we meet on a regular basis,
11 and they asked for this knowledge.

12 But honestly, you know, we were going to need to
13 change that system in order for groups like ours and spaces
14 like ours to be sustainable and, again, to be a beneficial
15 relationship for both ends, where we get our voice heard
16 but also, you know, we are not seriously underfunding our
17 leaders and our community members who sacrifice wages and
18 their -- more of their ability to provide for their
19 families and themselves.

20 And so I think, in terms of unlocking local
21 potential, I think that there is no, you know, possibility
22 of overstating the -- how much of a testament each
23 organization's budget lines are and how committed they are
24 to their alleged priorities by ensuring that your money
25 goes to the groups and the initiatives that you are

1 committing yourselves to.

2 So I think that keeping that open line of a
3 budget, you know, item allocated every year, at minimum, to
4 ensure that groups like C3JN and other EJJC groups led by
5 and for community members continue giving the expertise
6 that planners and decision makers need in order to have a
7 fully-informed decision is going to be the most helpful.

8 MS. HACKER: Thanks, Michelle.

9 Dustin, final word here?

10 MR. JOLLEY: Oh, well, I certainly don't want to
11 take anything away from Michelle's message, I thought it
12 was great, and the rest of the panelists there.

13 I might just end briefly by saying, you know,
14 I -- you know, from private industries perspective, if I
15 could, I'd really like to see some innovation around
16 incentivizing that segment of this space to work directly
17 with local and community orgs and local governments. I
18 think too often those local governments are, you know,
19 provided some resources, but perhaps hard, you know, in
20 some ways, hard to access resources, to engage the private
21 industry to achieve certain goals and attack certain
22 issues. And it'd be nice if maybe there was some clearer
23 and more plentiful pathways for private industry to be able
24 to bring resources to local governments in the reverse
25 direction, so that, you know, there's some incentive for us

1 to do that.

2 You know, from our perspective, I can say that,
3 you know, we -- you know, on a local level and, you know,
4 taking passion behind some of these issues, you know, we've
5 often provided, you know, pro bono services, for example,
6 or extended services at substantial time and risk in order
7 to advance some of these initiatives with some of our local
8 government and organization partners. So it would be nice
9 to, you know, bridge that gap in some new innovative ways,
10 and we're happy to continue that conversation.

11 MS. MALLORY: Angie, can I add just something
12 real quickly?

13 I mean, one of the things I think will be really
14 interesting when you look at energy cost, affordable
15 housing, is if you could -- to unlock local potential,
16 right, the question of what about having through the HCD,
17 the Housing Community Development, having an energy equity
18 person that at the HCD? That's a huge job, right, with all
19 the different cities. But bridging that gap between
20 housing affordability, energy efficiency opportunities,
21 we'd like to see that. I think that could go a long way to
22 putting together opportunities. And the HCD should be
23 knowing about the affordable housing and what's happening
24 in communities and just a conduit with the -- on the energy
25 side with housing at the state level.

1 MS. HACKER: So I want to thank the panelists for
2 illuminating what are some important actions,
3 infrastructure issues, concerns, and ideas that are
4 happening in our local community here in the Central Coast
5 and beyond. I want to thank the folks at home that are
6 chatting away some of the important things that are
7 happening in their communities. Thanks for participating
8 in that.

9 And I just want to offer up that the California
10 Climate and Energy Collaborative really thinks this is an
11 important conversation and has a firm belief that we can
12 actually address some of these issues. We can make it
13 easier for the communities that need to be here at the
14 table to get to the table. We can make it easier for them
15 to access funding. The devil is in the details. And all
16 of it is going to take some strategic architecture of how
17 to systematize this the right way, and we would be happy to
18 help continue these conversations.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. RAITT: Great. Thank you, Angie, and to all
21 the panelists.

22 So we're going to move to -- if there are any
23 questions from folks in the audience, you could just raise
24 your hand and we'll come up to the podium. Not seeing any.
25 Alright, I think there are a few online.

1 MS. GALLARDO: Hello, this is Noemi Gallardo,
2 Public Advisor. I'm going to read out a couple of
3 questions here.

4 First is from Dora Nakafuji.

5 "Are there any other permitting issues that we need to
6 be aware of implementing these clean and alternative
7 technologies? Curious what thoughts and provisions
8 are being considered for decommissioning of the PV and
9 other storage technologies."

10 Anyone interested in taking that one on? I
11 don't know if that might be a more appropriate for
12 Commissioners. Maybe not. Alright, we'll leave that
13 with --

14 MR. JOLLEY: You know, I could take a brief stab
15 at that one.

16 Not to take too long on it, but something that
17 came to mind for me is, you know, particularly related to
18 emerging technologies. Battery energy storage is probably
19 a great example of this, where it seems somewhat ubiquitous
20 now, you know, but it's still, you know, somewhat early in
21 its, you know, in its adoption and evolution as a
22 technology and how we're applying that technology in our in
23 our day-to-day space; right? And the permitting and codes
24 are constantly chasing the technology.

25 And so, you know, I think this harkens again back

1 maybe to some, you know, some emphasis on technical
2 assistance. You know, I've really enjoyed knowing some
3 subject matter experts in the industry that provide
4 technical training to, for example, our first responders
5 and others that are on the frontlines of not only improving
6 the applications and implementation of these new
7 technologies, but then also having to deal with them in
8 some unorthodox and emergency-type situations where it can
9 be tricky; right? Particularly for first responders, and
10 fire professionals and so forth.

11 And so I think maybe just an emphasis on
12 technical assistance, and really trying to close the gap
13 between technology and codes and standards and best
14 practices is I'm sure a universal struggle, but something
15 that could be emphasized.

16 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

17 Next question is from Nicole Monsenares
18 (phonetic). "Are folks on this panel exploring if or how
19 the Inflation Reduction Act may enable action at the local
20 level?"

21 Anyone excited about that one?

22 MS. TELLEZ: Yeah. This is Alejandra. I can
23 speak to it.

24 Yes, we're very excited about all the future
25 funding coming down.

1 One of the things that we're doing is starting to
2 speak to our community stakeholders, what are they looking
3 for? What, you know, what are what are the needs that we
4 need to address?

5 I think we're happily overwhelmed by all the
6 possibilities that are coming down but we want to make sure
7 that we are asking for funds for what the community is
8 actually eating. So I think that's one of the things that
9 we realized as we were kind of implementing our programs is
10 like we need to speak to the people that we're giving the
11 services to, so we're starting by kind of asking, what are
12 people looking for?

13 So yeah, we're very excited. I think all local
14 governments are kind of looking to who do we partner with?
15 Who do we associate with to start to make those grant
16 applications?

17 MS. HACKER: So at the California Climate and
18 Energy Collaborative, one of the main things we're doing
19 this year is trying to give folks a heads-up about what's
20 coming, what opportunities are coming, to make the best use
21 that we can have the resources that exist, and there's a
22 lot.

23 So we're starting to dig our heads a little bit
24 into the IRA and to see what's there for local governments.
25 The NRDC just did a little bit of analysis, so people are

1 just noodling in. There are some key programs. There's
2 going to be a lot there for folks working on communities.
3 There's also a lot there in this one about tax credits, so
4 that's less for the organizations like us but more for the
5 actual residents/consumers.

6 But I would like to offer for anybody to
7 participate in a monthly meeting that we have. It's called
8 the Local Energy Resources Network. We get together every
9 month to go over the most applicable and relevant resources
10 that local governments and their partners can use on the
11 ground. And we're trying to give you a far heads-up so you
12 can get everything you need together before these
13 opportunities hit. I'm going to have folks from the DOE, I
14 think, with us next month in September, and hopefully have
15 somebody else coming soon to kind of demystify some of the
16 IRA.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: So this is Commissioner
18 McAllister.

19 I want to just in here, actually, because, you
20 know, the states actually have a really key role there
21 across the country.

22 So, you know, the big money -- so the tax
23 credits, that's big money sort of, you know, on the credit
24 and deduction side, but the programmatic money for
25 buildings -- and kind of, you know, much of the work we're

1 talking about here is about \$9 billion, two programs that
2 were folded into the IRA, and they're both coming to state
3 energy offices, which in California's case is the Energy
4 Commission. So we will have to apply for those. There'll
5 be some formula. DOE doesn't -- they won't be able to tell
6 you a lot of specifics, but they don't know the specifics,
7 they have to figure them out.

8 And then we'll have to do the same thing when we
9 apply for those funds. And let's say we get, you know,
10 \$900 million, which is roughly our pro rata share of that,
11 you know, that \$9 billion, then we will have to go through
12 a state process to develop guidelines to, you know, get the
13 legislature to sort of, you know, put some -- put a frame
14 around it. And so we're going to need the local -- all of
15 you and your expertise and your forethought, your
16 foresight, and your sort of nuts-and-bolts opinions about
17 what elements of a program -- let's say we, you know, not
18 projecting what we're going to do, but let's say we do sort
19 of regional procurements and we end up with X number of
20 contracts covering, you know, the entire state, what are
21 the elements of those programs that are going to really
22 move the needle in those places; right?

23 And so that has to come from you all. Like, we
24 can't just conjure that; right? So I think -- I mean, we
25 will get it wrong; right? So you know, we really need to,

1 and will, have a robust stakeholder engagement, you know,
2 along the lines of what we're doing today. And that will
3 have to iterative and really involved and very hands-on
4 between, you know, between Staff and you all, and certainly
5 under -- you know, in some kind of a formal proceeding, but
6 really just a lot of interaction to make sure we get those
7 comments right. So I just wanted to give a little color to
8 what we think is coming down the pike.

9 And, you know, the Congress has told the agencies
10 HUD, DOE, some of the other, you know, EPA, that they have
11 to provide the details, and they have not done yet. And
12 there's -- actually, this money sitting behind the IIJA,
13 which also hasn't come out, you know, in its majority. So
14 there's some bottleneck issues at the federal level so, you
15 know, we all need to be kind of pushing on that.

16 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you.

17 So one final question through the Zoom Q&A is
18 from Fatima Abdul Kabir.

19 "Are there any examples of local governments who have
20 created a consistent long-term funding structure
21 compensating CBOs and NGOs who are supporting
22 community engagement and outreach efforts?"

23 Anyone want to take that one on? It's a very
24 good question.

25 MS. TELLEZ: I don't know that I have a great

1 example. I think it's something that we're starting to do
2 now that we see that that's a need. But one example that
3 maybe I can -- it doesn't really fit this, but we are
4 trying to take advantage of the Regional Energy Network --
5 is public health, our public health system has been using
6 what it's called the Promotores Network for a long time.
7 So it was mostly just, you know, health-based kind of
8 community members living in the community getting trained
9 on the impacts of secondhand smoking, so it's just kind of
10 getting committee members and teaching them about that.

11 So now we're partnering with them to kind of --
12 teaching these Promotores on how, like energy efficiency
13 and how they can speak about energy efficiency, so maybe
14 that's one example that I can think of, going in there
15 using that. We don't think about the public, you know, the
16 public sector, using that as an example, and kind of going
17 into those channels.

18 So maybe that's one that I can think of that has
19 been longstanding. But, certainly, there's a need and
20 hopefully we build a history of doing more with that.

21 MR. JOLLEY: Thanks, Alejandra.

22 I could add something quickly to that. I wanted
23 to mention the CCAs, as well, of course; right? These are
24 some organizations that cover a pretty significant swath of
25 the state now at this point, and have access to significant

1 monetary resources through their own revenues, but also by
2 channeling certain other state funds and so forth, you
3 know, and acting as a conduit for those down to community
4 groups and local organizations, and local member
5 governments, you know, sort of all the above there; right?

6 So it was in their charter originally to be,
7 essentially, an economic development program in the energy
8 space. And I think we're still only at the front end of
9 seeing the potential, realizing the potential, and seeing
10 the benefits of them really taking up that role, to the
11 potential that is there within the CCAs and the resources
12 and influence they can have in that way.

13 MS. SEVILLA: And I have one final example, I'm
14 sorry, but it's just something interesting that I think
15 that, you know, local community-member organizations and
16 members themselves might be interested in following is the
17 CERF Grant process. There's two major grants that C3JN is
18 heavily involved in. And the one that is really seeking to
19 kind of repair and start to unravel ourselves from, you
20 know, the systemic barriers of grant writing and low, you
21 know, resources and financial resources and capacity for
22 groups like ours is CERF, which is, if I'm not mistaken,
23 abbreviated as Community Economic Recovery Fund. So it's
24 several, you know, millions of dollars of grant systems.

25 And what was interesting for C3JN, and as

1 somebody who has mentioned in my bio has worked in the
2 nonprofit space, environmental nonprofit space, for a long
3 time, as well as been involved in the fundraising,
4 development, membership end of things is that while they
5 are quite in their infantile stages with the CERF funding,
6 they have been doing a similar approach where, as much
7 mentioned before for IEPR, there were regional workshops
8 being held, where they have three kind of branches of
9 entities who are working in the administration, the
10 execution, the financial ends of this of this very large
11 grant, and have been helping with, very intentionally,
12 breakout groups for folks who are interested in certain
13 aspects of this grant, and hearing directly from community
14 members what kind of grant structures and changes would
15 help kind of break the cycle and make it more accessible
16 for groups like ours with low resources and no grant
17 writers at all to participate meaningfully in this plan.

18 And at this stage, my understanding, if not
19 mistaken or hasn't changed since our last meeting a few
20 months ago, is that for, you know, the next 18 months,
21 starting much later, in 2022, through '23 or '24, CERF is
22 going to actually be providing stipends for groups like
23 ours, and representatives like myself and others, to
24 participate in these regular meetings to craft the grant
25 together.

1 And so, you know, this is called the Inclusivity
2 Fund, if I'm not mistaken, but they're drawing from this
3 Inclusivity Fund so that, you know, again, these grants can
4 be accessible to folks like ours. And they're -- they have
5 repeated to us again and again, and I think it's all in our
6 best interests to hold these administrators accountable to
7 their promises, that they're interested in breaking the
8 cycle and making it more equitable in terms of grant money
9 distribution and application.

10 So that, you know, we are going to definitely
11 take advantage of the Inclusivity Fund. And, again, just
12 very grateful that, you know, we are being compensated
13 fairly to help break these systems that made it not
14 possible for us to meaningfully participate in spaces like
15 this. So for those of you who are interested, again, CERF,
16 and I'll find the acronym and write it down, would be
17 something interesting to follow.

18 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you, Michelle.

19 So now we are going to turn it back to Angie for
20 the discussion with the Commissioners.

21 MS. HACKER: Alright. Well, thank you so much.

22 And I don't have much to say here other than to
23 just welcome and open it up to the commissioners for
24 your -- if you could take a moment to react to anything
25 that jumped out to you, or you've heard, and ask the

1 panelists any questions, we'd appreciate it.

2 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I wanted to just ask
3 Commissioner Houck, who's with us remotely, if she has any
4 questions or anything she wants to contribute? Just so we
5 don't make sure to get -- to give you that opportunity.

6 COMMISSIONER HOUCK: I can go next.

7 I just agree, we've got to find better ways for
8 us to make it easier for community groups to participate in
9 our processes and look at how we can make it, you know,
10 meaningful and what resources can be available.

11 I don't have any specific questions right now,
12 though.

13 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: Okay. Thanks. Sorry
14 to put you on the spot.

15 MS. GALLARDO: Commissioner, can you speak up?

16 MR. MARSH: Oh, sorry. Is that good? Is that
17 better? Okay.

18 So, you know, I want to just, first of all, thank
19 all of you, you know. You are the connective tissue that
20 keeps a lot of wheels, a lot of gears moving at the local
21 level, and just gets a lot of stuff done. And, you know,
22 you are going to be key to the solution.

23 And I think this morning we talked about sort of
24 a little bit more grassroots kind of models, and maybe a
25 little bit less formal, perhaps, and so I think we're going

1 to be both -- kind of, you know, all of the above really,
2 in the question that we, I think, we've hit over and over
3 again is how do we get resources efficiently and
4 effectively to those actors that are really going to be
5 able to move action on the ground? And so that's local
6 government, that's strong nonprofits, and that's also just
7 community groups and activists, and you know, all of that.
8 And that's part of the tapestry of our state.

9 So, you know, there's no easy solutions here, I
10 guess, but I'm, you know, very heartened because you're all
11 doing such great work. And, clearly, if we can get
12 resources -- if you have resources, you're going to use
13 them well and I think create a lot of positive change.

14 I did have a couple of questions just about --
15 you know, okay, so maybe focusing on multifamily or just
16 rentals in general. You know, the rental stock has a lot
17 of issues. I think, you know, Alejandra said that
18 eloquently. And so it's a livability issue, as well as an
19 energy decarbonization -- livability-first problem, right,
20 as you said.

21 So if we -- you know, resources that go to doing
22 these comprehensive upgrades that include energy, but also
23 lots of other stuff, they're going to improve the quality
24 of life, the quality of that housing, and the landlord is
25 going to actually receive benefit from that.

1 And so I'm wondering, on the local level, like
2 who sort of pays attention to the impact on the renter and
3 kind of can ensure that the raising of the quality of
4 housing doesn't raise the rent and displace the renter, and
5 kind of that we actually are treating the equity piece, as
6 well as the energy and decarbonization piece? I mean, that
7 seems like a sort of structural question, and somebody has
8 to have eyes on that. It's probably not a state agency.
9 It's probably some local entities, in some form. So I
10 guess I'm just wondering, you know, how much you've thought
11 through that? And are there solutions that you've kind of
12 honed in on if it's a problem?

13 MS. MALLORY: Thank you for that very, very
14 thoughtful question, and I'll, I'll start with it, and I'm
15 sure my panelists have some added pieces.

16 I mean, one is the yearly reporting on
17 affordability and our annual report to HCD. So, you know,
18 we do share that concern, which is if you're giving an
19 incentive to a property owner, how are you ensuring that it
20 doesn't either drive up the rent, or the money isn't spent
21 appropriately?

22 So, you know, I certainly don't have all the
23 answers. We know this is a problem. We know that we --
24 our Climate Action Plan establishes programs specifically
25 to improve efficiencies for rental, in addition to single-

1 family and commercial-industrial. So we have programs that
2 we think will help to address from the rental standpoint,
3 from a -- not climate action adaptation plan, but the
4 city's housing element. The programs that are written, we
5 have over 42 programs in our housing element, they're
6 targeted for all segments of the population.

7 So it's working with our housing authority, it's
8 working with the county, it's working with the planners for
9 affordability covenants. But it's -- again, it's the
10 connectivity. It's slowing down, ensuring that the
11 programs in your housing element are being implemented as
12 you envision over that eight-year window.

13 So there's pieces that I'm mentioning. There's
14 not one central repository, but it I think we need to speak
15 to the creativity side. We can report on the
16 affordability. We can report on how we're doing in meeting
17 our standards, how we're doing on the HCD standpoint. But
18 when it comes down to the efficiency side and ensuring it
19 really goes to where it needs to go, you know, there needs
20 to be some additional degree of oversight on that.

21 MS. HACKER: Commissioner McAllister, I wanted to
22 just make sure, you might be heartened to know that an
23 organization, Build It Green, is actually doing an effort
24 right now. They're leading an effort they just started to
25 try to address rental protection issues as a result of some

1 of the decarbonization work happening in communities,
2 looking at the adverse outcomes or the unintended
3 consequences of some of our really aggressive
4 electrification policies. And so they're -- CCEC is
5 participating in that. It looks like they're looking at
6 best practices, what's happening around the country that we
7 can learn from, so that we can try to avoid things like
8 displacement and undue costs.

9 MS. TELLEZ: And then I think it's a great
10 question.

11 I think the cities and counties, right, are the
12 ones are going to have to have that rent control policy. I
13 think City of Ventura currently went to that, so most
14 likely Lucas, and like your CAUSE, has been working on the
15 different rent control, so yeah, he would be one to give a
16 great example, but that's a great point.

17 I think we need to, you know, energy efficiency
18 programs, we need to kind of mirror and kind of partner
19 with those organizations and kind of make sure that we
20 address that issue. So I think that's a great, that's a
21 great way to kind of do that. But CAUSE, I think, is
22 currently doing that but, yeah, that's going to have to be
23 a local-level decision that we have to be aware of.

24 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: So sorry about the mic
25 problems.

1 Well, Angie, that was a great job facilitating.
2 I want to thank all the panelists, Alexis, and Alejandra,
3 Kathleen, Dustin on the phone, just this has been a really
4 great conversation.

5 And I want to emphasize that this is a moment at
6 the Energy Commission when we're going to be getting a
7 historic amount of funding, which will be announced today,
8 likely. So usually, we have -- when I first started at the
9 Energy Commission, we had about \$265 million we gave out a
10 year. In this current budget, we're going to be allocated
11 something close to \$6 billion, so that's a massive ramp-up.
12 And one of the most important programs is going to be on
13 building decarbonization. And Commissioner McAllister is
14 really going to be a thought leader in managing those
15 funds.

16 On the zero-emission vehicle side, last year,
17 there was \$1 billion of investment. That seemed jaw
18 dropping. And now we're talking close to \$3 billion when
19 we account for everything. And this is over several years,
20 so it's not in one single year, but we're really going to
21 be ramping up our investments in EV charging, in hydrogen
22 refueling, and really trying to do it in a way that's
23 attentive to community needs.

24 And so this conversation has been really helpful
25 and grounding. I think this message, that we need to have

1 engaged groups on the ground, CBOs who really connect to
2 communities, we need -- you know, these planning grants to
3 cities have been part of our thinking, like, well, let's
4 make sure that cities are planning thoughtfully, and then
5 we're getting funds for being able to deploy
6 infrastructure, so that is going to continue. I think some
7 of the messages Kathleen said about, well, you should pay
8 for everything, I don't think we can. But I do think the
9 federal funds are going to be really helpful here, and an
10 opportunity.

11 And so we're trying to figure out how to manage
12 these federal funds. We should be going to your meeting
13 Angie. But just this idea of like, well, money is coming,
14 how do we manage it wisely? And this workshop is part of
15 our thought process about how to do that.

16 So thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I want to just add to
18 that.

19 So it does happen that the state Energy Office is
20 in a pretty good spot to influence how the funds are
21 targeted and dispersed. You know, the federal agencies
22 don't always listen to us; right? But we have kind of the
23 front door. So the National Association of State Energy
24 Officials has a little SWAT team that's going to go and
25 like really try to work it, so I'm part of that leadership

1 circle. And I would like if we could keep this
2 conversation going so that, you know, when we're giving
3 advice to DOE about how they could structure one of these
4 programs or the other, it actually is already kind of
5 ground-truthed with, you know, where the funds are actually
6 going to be used.

7 So I would just invite that conversation in an
8 ongoing way, you know, so that's going to be for the next
9 six, eight months, or at least, so let's keep that
10 conversation going.

11 So, yeah, I guess I'll stop there. I mean, we
12 could ask lots of questions, but we'll just leave it for
13 follow-up I think. This has been really helpful.

14 You know, Kathleen, Alejandra and Dustin and
15 Alexis and Michelle, thank you very much for all of what
16 you're doing. I mean, clearly, you know, your
17 presentations are drawing on a huge well of experience and
18 knowledge and, really, today we've only scratched the
19 surface.

20 So thanks, Angie, for a great job.

21 MS. RAITT: Great, thank you. Thank you, Angie
22 and all.

23 This is Heather Raitt again. I will try my video
24 since I always forget to do that.

25 So we'll move on to our next panel. And it is

1 on -- excuse me -- Exploring Technical Assistant Approaches
2 to Accelerate Local Energy Action. And Jana Ganion from
3 Blue Lake Rancheria is kindly going to moderate this panel
4 for us.

5 So go ahead, Jana.

6 MS. GANION: Thank you, Heather. Just a quick
7 sound check.

8 MS. RAITT: You sound good.

9 MS. GANION: Great. So hello, everyone.

10 On behalf of this panel, we want to thank Vice
11 Chair Gunda, Noemi Gallardo, Katrina Leni-Konig, Heather
12 Raitt, the Energy Commission team for holding this
13 important workshop and convening this panel. We also thank
14 all the commissioners from the Energy Commission, Public
15 Utilities Commission, and the public attendees for joining
16 us at this incredibly busy time, and for your dedicated
17 work on these crucial topics.

18 I'm going to start out with a few comments and
19 then turn it over to our panelists for self-introductions.

20 I just wanted to say that, you know, we're
21 thinking all of us, and it's kind of been a through line
22 through, this afternoon particularly, that regionalization
23 is a growing framework for overall climate resilience, and
24 really to manage the shifts underway to clean energy and
25 transportation. It's also a timely topic within our

1 considerations of how to center equity and environmental
2 justice.

3 I appreciated Kathleen Mallory's comments on the
4 specific ways regionalization can reduce burdens on
5 individual jurisdictions and potentially improve energy
6 equity. Things are moving very fast to reduce carbon
7 emissions, improve health outcomes, outpace the impacts of
8 the climate crisis. Microgrids, electric vehicles, energy
9 storage, broadband, water, wastewater infrastructure, food
10 systems, all of these things are being reorganized, and for
11 the first time in probably a generation.

12 As Commissioner Monahan just mentioned, we are
13 seeing appropriate levels of resources. Funding from
14 California and federal governments is on the way to be able
15 to move the needle on the climate crisis and its impacts.
16 At the same time, as the Alejandra Tellez said, we are
17 hopefully happily overwhelmed and under-resourced in the
18 moment. So marginalized and hard-to-reach communities are
19 sometimes not keeping pace with these efforts. For
20 example, rural areas and tribal lands experience lags of
21 market scale due to lower populations, and other logistical
22 constraints, and this can impede access to expertise
23 technologies, as well as access to time-bound funding and
24 incentives.

25 Creating technical assistance resources to serve

1 the region, which is the topic of this panel, even as
2 capacity also increases for each government and community
3 within a region, is gaining traction as a way to de-silo
4 and coordinate climate resilience and reduce costs and
5 complete more projects in the clean energy and
6 transportation sectors. In short, well-designed regional
7 technical assistance can make engagement with the state
8 easier and can make planning and project dollars go much
9 further and faster where opportunities are feasible, but
10 capacity is short.

11 The regional concept is not new, but the focus is
12 becoming more targeted to include equity and whole-of-
13 community engagement, coordinated dig-once deployment,
14 program design engagement, as Commissioner McAllister
15 mentioned, and policy improvements of all kinds.

16 So to think through our topic today, Technical
17 Assistance Frameworks and Approaches to Accelerate Local
18 Energy Action, I'm joined by a dynamic and distinguished
19 panel, leaders at the forefront of technical assistance
20 with a focus on improving equity. They will each take a
21 few minutes to introduce themselves and I'll start with
22 Haley Ehlers.

23 MS. EHLERS: Hello? Let's see. Yeah. Okay.
24 Oh, no.

25 MS. GANION: Yeah, we can hear you Haley. We're

1 good.

2 MS. EHLERS: Okay. Okay.

3 So, yes, my name is Hayley Ehlers. She/her
4 pronouns. I'm the Associate Executive Director at Climate
5 First Replacing Oil and Gas, or CFROG. We are a local,
6 grassroots environmental advocacy nonprofit serving Ventura
7 County in the Central Coast. Our origins begin in
8 watchdogging the local oil and gas industry here to ensure
9 that operators were held accountable and oversight was
10 stringent and well thought-out, and most importantly,
11 raising awareness of these operations within the
12 communities that they pollute.

13 So while California, a big part of that, thanks
14 to your work at the Energy Commission, has done amazing
15 things in clean energy and sustainability and has this
16 reputation of being a green leader, the fossil fuel
17 industry still has such a stronghold here, so that is kind
18 of the gap that we fill. So we're still dedicated to
19 providing the tools and resources necessary to communities
20 and voices that are often left out of these conversations,
21 particularly people of color, low-income residents, and
22 young people. In our evolution, we've shifted more towards
23 a more holistic fight for energy democracy, or a shift from
24 the corporate centralized fossil fuel economy to one that's
25 governed and designed by the community.

1 So first, this is just a tidbit of information
2 that I haven't shared yet with those of you who are on the
3 tour yesterday, but we are motivated by the climate crisis.
4 Ventura County is the fastest warming county in the
5 contiguous United States with over four degree Fahrenheit
6 increase since preindustrial times, so we're seeing it play
7 out here locally very clearly. So for us, this energy
8 democracy, it requires many activities, including working
9 across movements, being intentional in the distribution of
10 technologies and opportunities and jobs, increasing public
11 education and the ability to get involved in collecting
12 data within your own community to influence policy and
13 programs, and increasing civic engagement to hold both the
14 industry and decisionmakers accountable to making this
15 transition equitably.

16 So thank you.

17 MS. GANION: Thank you, Haley.

18 I'm going to turn now to Terea Macomber, Director
19 of Clean Mobility Programs at GRID Alternatives.

20 MS. MACOMBER: Hi, good afternoon, everyone.

21 My name's Terea, she/her pronouns, and I'll be
22 doing a quick overview of Access Clean California, which is
23 a program that comes out of actually the SB 350 Barriers
24 Report, and the subsequent recommendations that were put
25 together by both the CEC, as well as the Air Resources

1 Board.

2 So next slide.

3 And I'll just show a video of our project because
4 it's much easier to explain in the time that we have. And
5 I will say that this video is online and it's translated
6 into six languages, though you won't see the closed
7 captions for those on this video. So I know the entire
8 Zoom meeting is being closed captioned.

9 (Whereupon a video is played)

10 MS. MACOMBER: Awesome. Thank you.

11 And you can go to the next slide.

12 (Video briefly restarts)

13 MS. MACOMBER: Or we can watch the video again.

14 So that's a quick brief on the product side of
15 Access Clean California, kind of the technology. But
16 really, we are funded out of the Outreach Division on the
17 CARB. I don't know all the technical terms of where we sit
18 in CARB but we are funded out of the Outreach Division,
19 because most of our funding the majority of our funding, I
20 want to say like 65 percent of our funds, go directly to
21 our statewide outreach partner network. And what we're
22 trying to model is that outreach, education and awareness
23 is done best by those community organizations and other
24 trusted intermediaries that speak to their communities all
25 day, so why not fund them to do what they do best, which is

1 bring resources to their community?

2 So in 2018, when we started, we started with four
3 outreach partners: SEIU, the largest labor union, in the
4 state; Blue Lake Ranch area, actually; Native American
5 Environmental Protection Coalition; and Liberty Hill
6 Foundation, that was running empower -- the Empower
7 Campaign down in Los Angeles. And what we leveraged our
8 outreach partner network to do was not only to do -- bring
9 education and awareness about all of these amazing climate
10 benefit programs that their communities could leverage and
11 take advantage of, but also we wanted them to turn back
12 their expertise towards us, and they've actually informed
13 that entire Benefits Finder that you see through a user-
14 centered design process.

15 They also have been supporting CARB in their
16 funding plan, and we've grown from four outreach partners
17 to now over 22. And that includes outreach partners that
18 are actually a collection of other outreach partners, like
19 CCAC's network of outreach partners or CBOs that they work
20 with in the Central Valley.

21 So that's my quick overview of Access Clean
22 California, and I look forward to getting into the
23 discussion. Thank you.

24 MS. GANION: Thank you, Terea.

25 I'm going to turn next to Peter Alstone,

1 Associate Professor at Cal Poly Humboldt, and faculty
2 scientist at the Schatz Energy Research Center.

3 Peter?

4 MR. ALSTONE: Thank you, and I'm glad to be here
5 today. Thank you for the invitation to contribute to this
6 panel.

7 I want to briefly introduce the Schatz Energy
8 Research Center, where I'm a faculty scientist. We're
9 located on the campus of Cal Poly Humboldt. You would have
10 known us as Humboldt State University until last year, and
11 now we're Cal Poly. At the center, we do a lot of kind of
12 action-oriented research on clean energy. We're educators.
13 We work on deployment. There's about 30 professional staff
14 who work in our center along with faculty like me, and
15 students at the university, and we've got partnerships all
16 around our region, and I'm going to focus on the
17 partnerships, and the way that we're trying to bring clean
18 energy to our region and working with communities in our
19 region to meet their needs.

20 We have an expertise around a whole range of
21 infrastructure and energy systems, so this includes
22 microgrids, off-grid solar, electric transportation,
23 biomass, offshore wind, and a kind of growing set of things
24 in response to the needs that we identified.

25 I want to highlight the work that we've done on

1 microgrids because this is an area where we see a real need
2 for technical assistance.

3 We've been lucky to be able to be at the
4 forefront of a lot of microgrid R&D and deployment over the
5 last few years. These are really critical systems for
6 community resilience in response to wildfire threat. The
7 map here, which I realize you can't read the words, but the
8 colors mean that the whole state is at threat for wildfire.
9 This is the fire threat map for the State of California
10 that's made by the CPUC. Up on the North Coast where we
11 are, almost our whole region is in tier two or three for
12 fire threat. And so microgrids can help the grid to be
13 more resilient, and also to be able to be cut off to avoid
14 ignitions of wildfires.

15 We partnered with Blue Lake Rancheria to develop
16 new technology pathways for microgrids. We're the lead
17 organization on the Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid, which
18 is the template now for community microgrids across
19 Northern California.

20 And what's hard about microgrids is building the
21 pieces that connect with the power system and the utility.
22 These are things that you wouldn't expect a local
23 government to be able to deal with. And we see this as one
24 of the key roles that we and other organizations can play
25 is really connecting between the expertise that's needed

1 and the project needs that communities identify.

2 So next slide.

3 And we're kind of responding to the panel here.

4 And sort of the way we see the work that we're doing, you
5 know, kind of the old way of doing things is big centrally
6 planned infrastructure with central planning that engages
7 communities to clean up the mess. And we really want to
8 get past that. We're looking forward to new ways of
9 building decentralized technical assistance programs that
10 responds to what we want to build, which is decentralized
11 Clean Energy Systems meeting people's authentic needs. We
12 can really see the role for technical assistance hubs with
13 a variety of different kinds of technical assistance that
14 are required. But to really bridge this gap between, you
15 know, trust, expertise, capacity, help communities engage
16 directly with the technology systems that are -- could be
17 out there helping them.

18 We're focused on tribal, rural, disadvantaged and
19 hard to reach communities. We can see the need to build
20 policy connections, meetings like today, but ones that
21 could happen all across the state on different kinds of
22 levels so that there's a direct conduit for policymaking.
23 Direct technical assistance is important. And focusing on
24 education and jobs so that we've got a just transition,
25 that people in communities are actually participating and

1 able to make a livelihood out of the transitions that we're
2 working towards.

3 So my contact information is here. I'm Peter
4 Alstone at the Schatz Energy Research Center. I'm looking
5 forward to the rest of the discussion today. Thanks.

6 MS. GANION: Thanks so much, Peter.

7 Next I'm going to turn it to Josh Simmons,
8 President of Prosper Sustainably.

9 Josh?

10 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Jana. Thank you
11 Commissioners for this workshop and all the great work that
12 you're doing on all these fronts.

13 So I'll reintroduce myself from a bit earlier and
14 add a little more flavor in the context of which I'm
15 speaking today. So I've been working with tribes, Native
16 American tribes, since 1989. I was the Environmental
17 Director for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians from
18 2007 to '14. I have been working on a variety of tribal
19 clean energy and climate change projects with tribes and
20 tribal serving organizations, mostly in California, since
21 2014 through Prosper. You know, if you were here earlier,
22 you see that we're the lead on California Travel Gap
23 Analysis projects focused on clean energy and climate
24 change, which is funded by Energy Commission and
25 administered by the Strategic Growth Council. Been

1 involved in the Tribal Climate Health Project's Tribal Push
2 For Prevention (phonetic) action training and capacity
3 building initiatives that are being administered by the
4 Pala Band of Mission Indians. And, actually, Angie has
5 been leading the Tribal Climate Health Project
6 implementation activities.

7 Also serving as the lead clean energy technical
8 consultant for Pala Band of Mission Indians, Rincon Band of
9 Luiseño Indians, and the San Pasqual Band of Mission
10 Indians, including on some joint planning activities. A
11 lot of this has involved planning and deploying microgrids,
12 renewable energy, energy storage projects, and a bunch of
13 electric vehicle charging stations.

14 So that's evolved to Prosper and myself being the
15 lead clean energy technical consultant on behalf of
16 Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, which is
17 a membership of 25 federally-recognized tribes located in
18 Southern California. Recently, we worked with SCTCA in
19 leading a grant application for U.S. Economic Development
20 Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 2 Grant
21 application.

22 Next slide, please.

23 On the Southern California Tribal Accelerated
24 Clean Energy Economy that involved a submitting applicant
25 \$75 million application for three advanced solar panel

1 manufacturing facilities, a deployment of a solar farm
2 using panels, and a workforce development program to train
3 people on installing panel and clean energy systems, as
4 well as a center for -- a regional really technical
5 assistance provider for SCTCA tribes and beyond in this
6 area. So that was great that provided -- it's successful
7 here by the end of this month, will provide physical
8 infrastructure and some revenue streams for getting some of
9 this off the ground. But what's really needed is the
10 programmatic support and infrastructure to sustain this
11 type of effort.

12 So we're in the process of pursuing the National
13 Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines Grant
14 opportunity for the Tribal Energy Innovation Accelerator.
15 That's more for the business development, technological
16 side of things. And also, Strategic Growth Council
17 Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant for Southern
18 California Tribal Regional Climate Collaborative. more
19 focused on tribal clean energy and climate change deeds
20 within their communities. And a variety of other
21 opportunities, including CERF Regional Funding, the tribal
22 set-aside, all the IRA funding coming, and there's a
23 variety of funding opportunities on our radar.

24 Happy to be here today and share a bit more about
25 what we're working on, and the technical assistance

1 approaches we're working on.

2 MS. GANION: Thank you, Josh.

3 Okay, so let's get to the discussion.

4 The first question really concerns this
5 workshop's focus, our considerations of how to center
6 equity and environmental justice throughout the CEC
7 efforts, and throughout our regions and elsewhere. I'm
8 going to ask the panelists to please give an overview of
9 your technical assistance approach and how it is helping
10 improve equity and, particularly, energy equity if that is
11 applicable to your work. And I'm going to start with
12 Haley. And then I'll continue with Terea, Peter, and then
13 Josh, in that order.

14 So, Haley, the question is yours.

15 MS. EHLERS: Sure, thank you.

16 So I am happy to offer, you know, a local
17 perspective and a nonprofit perspective, but we're kind of
18 in a different ballgame than the other panelists, but I'll
19 also offer my perspective or kind of the principles that
20 lead the work that we do.

21 So we are only in the infancy of a project in
22 partnership with two local labor groups in EV workforce --
23 or not necessarily just EV but green workforce development
24 in Ventura County. In talking with labor groups, they kind
25 of see EV and wind and these, you know, major projects that

1 are coming down the pipeline, like solar once was, and a
2 lot of that work was filled by our larger neighbor down
3 south in Los Angeles. So there's been an effort to be more
4 intentional and collaborative in developing green workforce
5 training regionally here.

6 In addition to that, you know, we work in citizen
7 science, and also more technical assistance when it comes
8 to like legal issues or policy engagement. But kind of
9 throughout all of that, the approach is emphasizing
10 intersectionality, so the idea that all of these things are
11 connected and everyone is being impacted by each of these
12 things, whether or not it feels like a direct connection.

13 So a good example of how we're thinking about our
14 partnership with labor is so for so long the workers who
15 were working in the oilfield were not educated or aware of
16 the health and safety impacts of the pollutants that they
17 were working in; right? So things that could lead to
18 cancer, asthma or other respiratory issues, they were not
19 given the information to understand how their health was
20 being impacted by this industry, while it was still
21 supporting them economically and supporting their family
22 and this region.

23 So on the other side of that is we're kind of
24 wanting to emphasize that as we invite labor and more green
25 workforce development, to see how they're part of a larger,

1 more positive context of the work that they're doing and
2 how it impacts our larger, climate or environment, our
3 disadvantaged communities.

4 So, in general, yeah, our approach is always to
5 see things interconnected with one another and make those
6 connections very clear to the people that are being
7 involved and used to make these projects or processes
8 successful.

9 So I'll leave it at that.

10 MS. GANION: Terrific. Thank you so much.

11 Terea, I'm going to turn to you.

12 MS. MACOMBER: Sure.

13 So I was invited here to talk about Access Clean
14 California, and GRID does have work with CEC, so I'll bring
15 in a little bit of both perspectives. You know, the
16 initial question of, you know, how can CEC, you know,
17 better integrate justice and equity into its work, you
18 know, I think it's been doing pretty well. I would say
19 that, you know, being a program that's coming out of
20 recommendations that that both CEC and CARB took the time
21 to put together jointly is one demonstration of that.

22 I do think that California, while seen as the
23 leader of all of this work, we have a little bit of a
24 harder play because we have checked a lot of boxes. So
25 when I think about, you know, low-hanging fruit if, you

1 know, we're doing a farm analogy, it's like we've got all
2 that low-hanging fruit and now we have to like really get
3 to the top of the tree. We have to work a little bit
4 harder, think a little bit more innovatively to ensure that
5 we're not just talking about equity and having intentions
6 of equity but we're actually able to operationalize equity
7 in our everyday decision making. So it's a challenge. And
8 the fact that we're aware of it and we're taking intention
9 with it, with our work with CEC through CalStar and CSE, I
10 think is a demonstration of we're going to get there.

11 I love how Haley brought up the thought of
12 approaching this work through an intersectional lens. It's
13 so critical at this point and it's critical for our
14 communities. Our communities, unfortunately, are not just
15 facing the symptoms of our climate crisis, but they're also
16 facing the symptoms of historic racist policies and
17 planning practices. So at this point, unfortunately, we do
18 have to -- we are responsible to take an intersectional
19 view. And I think the best way to do that is through
20 technical assistance that understands that our communities
21 don't have the privilege to approach these benefits in
22 siloed ways. So we know all of this technology is
23 interdependent, and it's interdependent through the, you
24 know, the line of energy. So regardless of what we
25 electrify at the end of the day, this is all -- we all --

1 the energy that is powering all of this has to be
2 decarbonized.

3 So something that we're trying to do through
4 access clean California, with our individual community
5 members, is ensure that they're able to benefit from a
6 quilt of all of these climate programs, not just quilt
7 pieces. That's how I think of that, is like if I get this
8 electric vehicle, will I get charging? If I just get the
9 electric vehicle, that's a quilt piece. But if I get the
10 electric vehicle, the charging, and the solar at my house,
11 or solar on my multifamily affordable housing, I am getting
12 a quilt. I'm getting an actual blanket that I can use as a
13 form of climate resiliency.

14 Through our work through the CEC, we really are
15 taking intentional approach of building a technical
16 assistance, I guess, process that is taking that
17 intersectionality into heart and trying to operationalize
18 it. So our work on the Light-Duty Block Grant programs, as
19 well as some of the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Block Grant
20 programs that we're partnering with the administrators on.
21 We've had to take the time, though we want to move faster,
22 we've had to really take the time to do a considerable
23 amount of stakeholder engagement. So having five to seven
24 webinars for each of these, for communities in charge, for
25 example, with equity advisors to ensure that the way that

1 we not only design the application for this funding, for
2 the block grant funding, but also the technical assistance
3 that complements it, is the most accessible and the most
4 useful and valuable for the organizations that are actually
5 going to spend the time to apply for these programs.

6 And then we're, finally, we're taking, you know,
7 the grassroots approach and just getting out into
8 community, virtually knocking on doors and calling people
9 one-on-one to say, hey, this funding is available, and
10 we're here to help you be able to actually build some
11 charging, maybe at your faith-based community or at your
12 corner store, which are community pillars that sometimes
13 are forgotten in the conversation.

14 MS. GANION: Wonderful. Thank you.

15 I'm going to turn to Peter, same question,
16 overview of technical assistance approach and how it can
17 help improve equity, particularly energy equity if it's
18 applicable.

19 MR. ALSTONE: Yeah, thank you.

20 So our approach for technical assistance? You
21 know, we sit at a university research center. We're doing
22 research and we see that as -- you know, that's a vital
23 foundation for us. We're able to stay on, help to move the
24 cutting edge. We're doing that through research projects,
25 but also deployment projects. I think, by helping to

1 actually build these things, that makes us a lot better at
2 providing the technical assistance to communities because
3 we know what the challenges are. We're figuring out the
4 challenges in collaboration with our community partners.

5 The way that we bring an equity lens and
6 dimension to this is, number one, who we partner with. Who
7 are the communities we're working with to build the next
8 microgrid or to do electric vehicle planning? We've been
9 really intentional and focused about partnering with tribal
10 communities in our region, with a whole range of tribal
11 communities, with communities that are hard to reach. It's
12 important to do that because, as we're developing new
13 policy processes, as we're developing new technology
14 systems, we've got to make sure that they're going to reach
15 these communities because we know that urban and affluent
16 communities are going to be able to benefit from electric
17 vehicles. It's not sure that the same thing is going to be
18 true in rural, far-flung areas.

19 You know, so like, for example, power goes out a
20 lot in a place like the mid-Klamath region where there's
21 miles and miles of forest in between the substation and the
22 community. So when the power goes out, it might stay out
23 for six or eight hours at a time. There's new settings on
24 the circuit breakers, on the power system, that makes that
25 more frequent. That's kind of getting down into the weeds

1 of the reality of wildfire response right now. All that's
2 driving us towards needing to build more resilient, more
3 reliable power systems, use microgrids where they're
4 strategically appropriate to do so.

5 We need to do that because, if we don't, those
6 communities are going to be shut out of any kind of
7 benefits from electrification. If we want people to buy an
8 electric vehicle or to switch to electric heating, they're
9 not going to do it if the power goes out 15 times a year or
10 20 times a year for eight hours at a time.

11 So there's these kind of preconditions to
12 participation in a lot of the transitions that we're
13 talking about. And I think it's important that technical
14 assistance providers, or technical assistance hubs, can
15 help to identify those pain points and figure out the kind
16 of intersectional approaches that -- and I really liked
17 that, kind of using intersectional both ways. We've got
18 intersectional disadvantage, but we've also got
19 intersectional opportunities, that Terea just brought up.
20 So we're definitely focused on looking at those whole
21 systems, intersectional opportunities, and doing it in
22 partnership with communities who have been historically
23 disadvantaged. I think it's really important to do it that
24 way.

25 I'll also mention, I think that a real strength

1 that we have is that we see this as a long-term
2 partnership. We try to not just do one-off projects and
3 then say, okay, we're done with this partnership. We want
4 to have long-term partnerships with communities.

5 We're able to do that partly because we're based
6 at a university that's been here for a long time. We're
7 going to keep being here. Communities know where to find
8 us and they know who we are. And that means that we can
9 start by figuring out what are the authentic needs, then
10 go -- usually it means going to find new funding. We're
11 very project-based in the way that we're able to do this
12 work. Get funding and collaboration with a community,
13 build a project, and make sure it keeps working five years
14 later.

15 There's a long lifecycle to this and it takes
16 time to do that. It takes resources, human resources to do
17 that. We'd very much like to shift to a more programmatic
18 approach, where we didn't have to project-by-project
19 fundraise every time that we want to help a community think
20 about an electric vehicle charging station or a microgrid.
21 Really looking forward to opportunities to get there.

22 But right now, that's how we work. It's project-
23 based. We partner with communities in the long-term, and
24 are really intentional about who we're partnering with, so
25 that we can have the greatest good out of what we do.

1 MS. GANION: Thank you, Peter.

2 Josh, same question. Turn it to you.

3 MR. SIMMONS: Thanks, Jana.

4 If you're watching my screen, sometimes it goes
5 to -- "Peter Alstone" pops up in the back behind me. So if
6 I start talking about Schatz, maybe I've been -- he's
7 gotten a hold of me.

8 So with that being said, I kind of feel like
9 Prosper has been turned into a bit of a Schatz in the south
10 with our work with tribes. You know, they've done great
11 work with Blue Lake and other tribes up there, and just
12 generally great work, you know, throughout Northern
13 California communities.

14 So, you know, I want to first focus on the equity
15 piece for tribes in particular. You know, tribes do not
16 have tax revenues like other governments typically have to
17 support their community and government operations. Some
18 tribes -- and I want to, you know, caveat -- some tribes
19 have gaming and hospitality and other, you know, ventures
20 that are bringing in the revenues they need to support
21 their government operations and communities. And, you
22 know, among those tribes that have that, you know, the
23 success varies, and the level of revenues vary quite
24 dramatically. And there's other tribes that do not have
25 any business revenues whatsoever to support their

1 communities.

2 And one example is, when we were pursuing the
3 Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grants, it was a rush.
4 You know, we learned about the opportunity that a bit late.
5 Angie told me about it. I presented on. I was like, oh,
6 this is a great opportunity for the tribes to pursue
7 regional cooperation, which we had on our radar, and we had
8 to get information really fast on potential projects. And
9 the tribes that had the resources were the ones that were
10 able to respond.

11 I mean fortunately we did have some tribes that
12 were a little less resourced, like La Posta had a casino,
13 does not have a casino anymore. But there -- oops,
14 Peter -- but you know, that's one of the sites of the
15 Advanced Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility, hopefully,
16 that will be funded by BDA, so -- but there's lots of other
17 tribes that just could not or didn't even respond, because
18 they just don't have the people or didn't have the time or
19 capabilities to do so.

20 So with that in mind, you know, we're really
21 trying to develop the programmatic capacity to be more
22 proactive than reactive, so that we're actually evaluating,
23 know their needs, know priority projects in advance.

24 So what we're working on, on a regional basis, is
25 this Regional Southern California Tribal Technical

1 Assistance Ecosystem. And, you know, I'm going to kind of
2 outline a bit of a framework, and I think it will be
3 relevant, very relevant here. But starting with assessing
4 the needs and identifying the priorities of tribes, both
5 individually and collectively, through, you know, adequate
6 and ongoing outreach and engagement with them on their
7 needs, discussing with them, identifying information,
8 gathering through dedicated staff and consultants through
9 the regional collaboration. And I'll get more into like
10 how to help the tribes gain more resources in a moment.

11 I believe it's critical to centralize funding and
12 assistance opportunities, centralize the for-profit and
13 not-for-profit partners and service providers, including
14 the federal and state funding agencies, so that there are
15 those ongoing partnerships, relationships that can provide
16 the funding, the services, and partnerships the tribes need
17 to advance these types of initiatives and projects.

18 So that means also participating in policy and
19 program-development activities through this regional
20 collaboration on an ongoing basis. That will also support
21 and facilitate consultation by individual tribes, because
22 you still need to respect the individual sovereignty of
23 individual tribes, but a regional collaborative. A
24 regional assistance provider can better inform the
25 individual tribes, make them aware of the consultation

1 opportunities, and help set up and arrange those things.

2 I believe that also involves providing technical
3 assistance and grant-writing assistance for tribes to
4 advance their priority plans, programs, projects with
5 technical assistance and support for implementing projects,
6 tracking results for accountability, you know, actually
7 accountability of those service providers, too, that are
8 just seeking to support them, and sharing the results for
9 ongoing improvement all around, you know, so each tribe can
10 learn from one another.

11 It's been a -- as you heard from lots of
12 initiatives we're working on with SFTCA (phonetic),
13 incorporating local and regional economic development
14 activities are critical. Workforce development activities
15 and related opportunities are all critical, including
16 advancing clean energy technologies through strategic
17 partnerships, and I'll talk about that more in a moment,
18 but really, a high tide raises all ships. Tribes have a
19 variety of issues they're trying to face. And bringing up
20 their economic base is really critical for them not just to
21 address clean energy, climate change and resilience-related
22 matters, but all the issues that they're facing overall.
23 So not that I'm an advocate of a rising sea level but, you
24 know, I just let -- ways to bring up all the tribes,
25 including those are the absolute neediest.

1 One other point I want to make on that is that
2 tribes need funding to participate in these technical
3 assistance activities, particularly in providing
4 information in their circumstances, their resources, their
5 facilities, their needs and priorities. You can't just ask
6 them to show up and participate and use this technical
7 assistance without somehow providing the resources for them
8 to do so, the compensation for them to do so.

9 So, you know, SFTCA, tribes, Prosper are all
10 interested in having this expand just beyond the SFTCA
11 tribes by having this be regional, statewide, and even a
12 national-type initiative.

13 MS. GANION: Great. Thank you, Josh.

14 Next I want to zoom out to another focus of the
15 IEPR 2022 update, and those kind of concerns of energy
16 forecasts, I guess, in a loose way. So when we think about
17 how the grid will utilize more distributed energy
18 resources, distributed expertise and technologies go with
19 it.

20 So we've talked about this a little bit. But
21 aside from funding, which we all know how critical that is,
22 how do you see regional approaches to technical assistance
23 increasing access to expertise, technology, workforce
24 development, improving things like contractor ecosystems
25 and product knowledge, and other sort of deployment

1 essentials?

2 So for this question, I want to set aside, for
3 the moment, sort of the pre-feasibility and the prep, and
4 the funding application side of things, and it's more
5 focused on deployment essentials and how they can be
6 supported with technical assistance to accelerate local
7 energy action.

8 And I'll start, Terea, with you, and with the
9 understanding that when we talk about energy, we're also
10 talking about electrified transportation; the two are
11 inextricable at this point.

12 MS. MACOMBER: Well, yeah, that's a good question
13 for four o'clock in the afternoon.

14 MS. GANION: Yeah. Thank you.

15 MS. MACOMBER: I think I'll keep my answer short.

16 You know, GRID has been deploying solar in our
17 disadvantaged communities, through SASH and DAC-SASH for
18 over a decade now. And I think the fact that we've been
19 able to build a Workforce Development Program within that
20 deployment of solar kind of speaks for itself. And we're
21 trying to do the same thing for clean transportation.

22 So, actually, our GRID, Greater Los Angeles
23 Regional Affiliate, is working with CALSTART and the CEC on
24 RHETTA, which is ensuring there is a workforce development
25 opportunity at a new medium- and heavy-duty charging site.

1 So it's really being innovative in the approach to
2 deploying these funds and giving, you know, giving that
3 flexibility to take some, you know, innovative approaches
4 to ensuring there are opportunities for workforce
5 development and community engagement that's more than just
6 a handout, that's actually not just giving you the fish but
7 teaching you how to fish, as well, and building economic
8 opportunities for our communities that are facing the brunt
9 of the climate crisis.

10 One thing that I wrote down as both Peter and
11 Josh were speaking, and then I'll pass it to my fellow
12 panelists, is technical assistance can't be decoupled from
13 capacity building. So on Access Clean California, we have
14 been honored to receive additional funding to do technical
15 assistance in capacity-building pilots. And it's really
16 given our outreach partner network the ability to expand,
17 because we've been able to use additional funding not just
18 to say, here's all of these resources, go educate your
19 community, but also, oh, you are a volunteer organization
20 that through our funding is now becoming an actual
21 501(c)(3); what other pieces around organizational
22 development do you need?

23 And we were able to actually do a really great --
24 we built, basically, a curriculum for our Outreach Partner
25 Network to engage and that included canvassing during

1 COVID, how to build a strategic plan, how to leverage
2 Facebook and other social media platforms for outreach.
3 And things that seemed like most organizations know how to
4 do this, we were giving the opportunity for smaller CBOs
5 that may be one or two folks to really learn and build
6 their capacity to then be able to receive technical
7 assistance that they weren't able to engage in to do their
8 outreach.

9 So just wanted to name that based off of what
10 Josh and Peter were also bringing up, too.

11 MS. GANION: Terrific. Thank you.

12 Josh, I'm going to turn to you. Same question,
13 deployment essentials. How have you seen technical
14 assistance approaches, like the ones that you're working
15 on, support that?

16 MR. SIMMONS: Thanks Jana.

17 So, I mean, the limiting reagent on a lot of
18 these activities is tribes just don't have either the
19 funding capacity, the staffing capacity, the information,
20 expertise, know-how. And a lot, you know, is obviously --
21 every single tribe, if you've seen one tribe, you've seen
22 one tribe, but there's obviously some commonalities across
23 the board here. You know, we were seeing individual
24 communities planning, implementing projects, reinventing
25 the wheel, or not proceeding because they don't even know

1 where to start, or it's just too much of an effort for them
2 to go through all of this in order to get to the point
3 where they're actually deploying the DER, the solution they
4 need. So, you know, I think this regional approach will
5 allow -- you know, avoid that, avoid this continuous
6 reinventing of the wheel, saving time and resources.

7 It's also about, you know, trust and
8 relationships too. I think, you know, we're able to work
9 successfully with tribes because we've developed trust and
10 relationships with them over time. And where we
11 continuously -- like, tribes, there's not enough people out
12 there who know how to work on these things and work with
13 tribes to get -- to meet all the need, you know, even when
14 it actually, you know -- an increasing abundance of
15 resources, certainly not enough to meet the need, but
16 still, there's just, you know, there aren't enough people
17 actually to do what tribes need to be done in addition to
18 that.

19 So, you know, I think the regional approach would
20 allow that continuity to occur, would allow pooling. I'm
21 continuously just, through Prosper, trying to identify
22 other firms, you know, that we can work with that meet
23 different specialties. They may have some tribal
24 experience, they build some but, you know, the regional
25 approach will allow the pooling and centralization of

1 experts, contractors, technology options and providers,
2 universities, you know, partner surrounding jurisdictions
3 and government agencies to be all in one place so that
4 tribes can -- you know, they don't have to go and peck and
5 hunt and reinvent the wheel over and over again.

6 And also just evaluation and monitoring of
7 performance of these partners and resources, too, just to
8 ensure that there is some accountability and high-
9 performance, that, you know, tribes are actually getting
10 what they expect.

11 I think, you know, workforce development is an
12 opportunity, too, so centralizing and connecting workforce
13 development agencies, opportunities and activities, as well
14 as available workforce. You know, certainly there's a need
15 for workforce development for Native Americans but, you
16 know, Native American businesses are going to be growing
17 and, you know, they're going to be -- they already are
18 employing many, many non-tribal people. So, you know,
19 connecting all regional, tribal and non-tribal workforce
20 development agencies, which is what we're doing, will be
21 done through the SFTCA initiatives, community colleges and
22 universities. So there's a range of different talent pools
23 and opportunities to also study and learn more, as well,
24 and partnering with them on training opportunities.

25 You know, I guess, ultimately, this results in a

1 better ability to assess clean energy and DER needs at a
2 higher level, informing tribes, developing a working list
3 of priority projects. And then if you pair it with
4 centralized funding opportunities, you're more able,
5 quickly able, to match those priority projects and deploy
6 that technical assistance to actually implement the
7 projects to support tribes in pursuing the funding and
8 getting these grants.

9 And also, just, you know, we're working a lot on
10 advancement of technology, clean energy technology, and
11 solutions and businesses. So, you know, centralizing,
12 connecting tribes with clean tech incubators, universities
13 that are on the cutting edge that are working with tribes,
14 you know, like Blue Lake, like Rincon, like the other
15 tribes we're working with in, you know, piloting,
16 demonstrating, deploying these newer technologies that are
17 meeting these evolving challenges, like long-duration
18 energy storage, in a way that, too, that tribes can
19 actually invest and be equity partners and receive economic
20 revenues from it, as well, so it kind of, you know, meets a
21 variety of needs.

22 MS. GANION: Great. Thank you.

23 Haley, I'm going to turn to you and then Peter,
24 and just want to be mindful of time. We have about six
25 minutes or so I believe before we will turn to some public

1 Q&A, and then questions and comments from the
2 commissioners.

3 Haley, same question: In terms of sort of
4 deployment essentials and accelerating our abilities to get
5 projects done, what do you see -- how do you see the value
6 of technical assistance in the approaches that you're
7 involved in really gaining traction?

8 MS. EHLERS: Yeah, thank you. And don't worry,
9 my answer will be short.

10 But I think kind of where -- my immediate
11 thoughts went to employment or deployment essentials. And
12 maybe it's just kind of getting outside of the technical
13 assistance framework but, you know, everything -- again,
14 intersectionality, is in terms of like public education and
15 awareness as distributed energy production and generation
16 happens more locally.

17 On our tour yesterday, visiting the power plant
18 that was spoken about earlier this morning, there were many
19 stories of people who grew up here and didn't have any idea
20 of what it was or how it worked or how it impacted how, you
21 know, how their homes worked and how it impacted, you know,
22 the more negative side of things, as well.

23 So I think distributed energy and distributed
24 expertise and technology is -- I think it's important to be
25 intentional in doing the public awareness of understanding

1 how these new processes will fit within our communities,
2 but also it eventually, hopefully, will kind of create a
3 more grassroots understanding of these technologies that
4 are so essential to our lives. As we have more people that
5 are from here, that are from the areas where this is
6 happening, know more about it, you know, they're going to
7 share it with their families. We can have generations of
8 students grow up and know that these jobs are available
9 locally.

10 So even outside of the more intentional education
11 that should be done, it will happen eventually. The
12 distributed energy will kind of create an opportunity for a
13 better understanding in terms of what's going on in our
14 neighborhood and the energy that's powering all of us.

15 So that's what I would add.

16 MS. GANION: Thank you. Well said.

17 Peter?

18 MR. ALSTONE: It sounds like I missed a really
19 cool power plant tour yesterday.

20 MS. GANION: I know.

21 MR. ALSTONE: I'm sorry to have missed it.

22 It's kind of symbolic for this question, I think,
23 too. You asked like, for distributed energy, what does it
24 take? Well, think about that power plant and what it took
25 to build that. That was a centralized infrastructure. It

1 kind of made sense that if you're building a bunch of
2 centralized power plants, you don't necessarily have to
3 engage with all of the different communities differently,
4 because the gas power plant works the same anywhere it
5 goes. That's not going to be the case with distributed
6 energy where we've got high-tech stuff, complicated stuff,
7 sitting at the edge of the grid in every community in the
8 state.

9 So it really makes sense that we should rethink
10 the way that we're going to support the system. We need to
11 rebuild our policymaking frameworks and our technical
12 support frameworks to match the material differences in the
13 new energy system that we're trying to build here, so how
14 that intersects with technical assistance and kind of
15 building out decentralized technical assistance.

16 I think I mentioned before, I kind of think
17 there's three key parts. There's direct assistance on
18 actual projects, making sure that we're actually trying to
19 build things in every community in the state. If we don't
20 make sure that we're attempting to build things we don't
21 know where there's gaps. There might be communities that
22 aren't buying electric vehicles just because there's some
23 gap, there's some roadblock there, and we need to figure
24 out what those are.

25 And also getting these projects done, a lot of

1 times, requires communities hiring contractors or
2 consultants or people who will be claiming that they can
3 deliver on a project and they may or not be able to deliver
4 it. This happens, we hear from our tribal community
5 partners, a lot. They're approached by people and they
6 don't know whether to trust them. This could be another
7 role for the kind of regional technical assistance
8 providers, just to help vet and figure out who's telling
9 the truth and who's just coming in to try and make a quick
10 buck on whatever federal incentive program they want to
11 take advantage of that might not be there when the project
12 breaks down. So I think that there's sort of direct
13 technical assistance pieces, important roles there.

14 And then there are certainly regional networks of
15 contractors, of utility distribution planners, of
16 policymakers, where a regional hub could bring them
17 together, could make it so that we've got policy
18 connections. I think that's another important piece, that
19 we're able to flow back information to policymakers who are
20 making important decisions at the state level, at the
21 federal level, make sure the policy isn't just one-size-
22 fits-all, that it adapts to the different regions.

23 And then, finally, others have mentioned the
24 importance of education, workforce development. I won't
25 belabor those but will say that those are also inherently

1 regional processes. Kids go to school where they live.
2 And a lot of people go to college and technical education,
3 university, in their region. So we can take regional
4 approaches and get to the place where Haley mentioned of
5 like people are learning about stuff in school that
6 connects with the technology systems that are serving their
7 communities. I think that that is a great vision.

8 MS. GANION: Thank you so much.

9 Amazing panel. We will call it there because
10 we're at 4:25. And I'll turn it over, I believe, to
11 Heather to facilitate public questions for the panelists.

12 MS. RAITT: Great. Thank you, Jana and Haley and
13 Terea and Peter and Josh, really appreciate all of that,
14 your time and presentations.

15 So if anyone in the audience has any questions,
16 you can just raise your hand and come on up and you can
17 come to the podium here, or the lectern and go ahead and
18 ask your question.

19 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Hi. Robert Perry. P, as in
20 Paul, -E-R-R-Y. I'm with Synergistics Solutions. Great
21 conversation on the whole. All the panels today have been
22 great.

23 They say the biggest barrier to EV adoption is
24 getting people in the cars. Once they're in the cars, the
25 cars sell themselves. I think the same can apply for

1 distributed energy resources.

2 And I'd like your thoughts on -- you know, I'm
3 involved in a lot of these different proceedings and we're
4 all -- you know, they're all moving somewhat together
5 inexorably towards developing overall policy, but we're
6 really in need of something that we can do right now,
7 something specific. And I'd like your thoughts on the idea
8 of the State of California allocating a significant portion
9 of the budget to developing microgrids at every public
10 school in the state of California as kind of the first step
11 towards developing community energy resilience.

12 Schools; I have yet to hear a community say that
13 their school isn't a critical facility, it's used for
14 staging grounds and for shelter during emergencies, and
15 it's the communal nerve center where kids go to learn. If
16 we can site these technologies at schools, build age-
17 appropriate curriculum around the existence of these
18 resources, in 12 years a child in kindergarten can come out
19 of high school with an incredibly valuable skill set that
20 can be applied in their community.

21 And I'm just wondering your thoughts on how that
22 could be used as a vehicle, as a catalyst, to building
23 community awareness and support for developing local
24 energy?

25 Thank you.

1 MS. GANION: Thank you.

2 Panelists, would anyone like to volunteer to take
3 that one?

4 MR. SIMMONS: I'd like to start.

5 I think, actually, I think the concept is
6 fantastic. I actually would suggest modifying it.

7 So I work on a lot of microgrids. And you run an
8 analysis of whether the microgrid is appropriate or not.
9 You know, if the community just got undergrounding that
10 occurred -- I had this happen on a project I was actually
11 working on, you know, a 20, 30, 40 -- you know, it was
12 ballooning, because of COVID and everything else, you know,
13 a very large microgrid project. And, you know, all of a
14 sudden there was a planned undergrounding which, you know,
15 didn't entirely tank the project but required some
16 pivoting.

17 But I think if you actually had -- you know,
18 every school had a budget to implement clean energy
19 technologies, they would implement the clean energy
20 technologies appropriate to their community based on their
21 need for resilience, their need for electric vehicles, you
22 know, So you actually have a menu. and that would really,
23 you know, inform, give them all first-hand experience, do
24 curricula.

25 So I just, I'd say, you know, I think it's a

1 fantastic idea.

2 MS. GANION: Terea, I'm going to put you on the
3 spot, just because I think, you know, the video that we
4 watched about -- it underscored the importance of
5 interpretive ecosystems and the building of curriculum and
6 educational programs around these subjects.

7 So can you speak to, a little bit, maybe, about
8 the ways in which that suggestion might be something that
9 we would consider, or ways in which it already has been
10 considered? Because I know that in terms of like community
11 solar projects and facility-scale systems, schools are
12 often a priority for those projects.

13 MS. MACOMBER: Yeah.

14 I think I reflect -- just reinforce what Josh
15 said, which is like, it's a great idea, and again, thinking
16 about technical assistance and capacity building for
17 schools to be able to, you know, actually build microgrids
18 on their properties.

19 I will say I immediately thought of, which
20 schools? Because specifically in, unfortunately, Black and
21 Brown communities in the state of California and kind of
22 across the nation, a lot of schools are either being closed
23 down or they're turning into charter schools, so then
24 they're no longer -- I don't know the -- like I don't know
25 the technicalities of whether the local community, local

1 government, still owns that property if a school becomes a
2 charter school, but that could complicate things.

3 And also recognizing that actually a lot of Black
4 and Brown community schools have been closed due to budget
5 cuts, so who would -- if we prioritize microgrids at
6 schools, would it continue to meet Justice 40, as well as,
7 you know, SB 350 and other goals that we have around in
8 ensuring these benefits get to the communities that need
9 them the most? But I think it's a great idea because
10 schools are those community pillars that so many folks look
11 to for resources.

12 Something that we've also started to highlight as
13 a community pillar are faith-based organizations, faith-
14 based institutions, as well. A lot of folks still go there
15 and sit there for a while every Wednesday and Saturday,
16 depending on their denomination, for a little bit, so also
17 recognizing those as community pillars.

18 I will say that, in terms of the -- one of the
19 models that we've seen work really well, and it's been
20 working really well with Access Clean California, is
21 centralizing the education awareness and outreach materials
22 for our Outreach Partner Network, so we call it our
23 resource hub. And it's open to all tiers of our outreach
24 partners, so you don't even have to be a funded partner of
25 ours to access this library of all of the materials that

1 we've gotten our hands and that our outreach partners have
2 said we should get our hands on, and really having not just
3 materials to give to community members but also train the
4 trainer materials, technical materials that allow folks to
5 really understand these technologies.

6 So I'm sure, I know, Josh, you're emphasizing
7 centralized funding and centralized resourcing. I think
8 that's really important to see interagency collaboration in
9 ensuring that, you know, all of the innovation that's
10 happening within the CEC is able to be called upon and
11 inform things at CARB, things in all of the other agencies
12 that are doing additional work, as well.

13 I don't think that really answered your question,
14 so I apologize, but that's what I got. It's 4:30, you all.

15 MS. GANION: It was great. It was great.

16 Haley, Peter, any other thoughts from you two?
17 We've got a couple minutes before we go to discussion with
18 Commissioners.

19 MR. ALSTONE: I'll mention, I just, I like the
20 spirit of the suggestion. We, of course, we're all policy
21 geeks, maybe not we're all policy geeks, but we're like,
22 oh, man, what about the details? And the details, of
23 course, matter. I think the spirit, though, is let's move
24 fast and let's start doing this, and that's important.

25 There's also the spirit of we've been under-

1 investing in public education and in public facilities for
2 a long time, and paying teachers better would be an
3 important investment, along with better facilities for them
4 to be teaching in. And those facilities, to the extent
5 that they're able to inspire students, is great, so I love
6 microgrids at schools.

7 I love decarbonized HVAC systems at schools, too,
8 that can clean the air and provide clean air for our
9 students. You know, I think COVID has really brought home
10 how important clean air is. As we do decarbonization in
11 buildings, we can be thinking about how to improve air
12 quality for everybody, so we're all breathing safe air.

13 So there's so many priorities. And I think we
14 have to avoid being paralyzed with the choice. We're not
15 going to get it perfect. We've got to identify good things
16 and move forward on good things, be ready to course
17 correct, be ready to change as we go.

18 Bringing it back to the technical assistance
19 hubs, if we have long-term technical assistance, kind of
20 policy outreach partners across all the different regions
21 in the state, we'll be able to get the feedback back to
22 policymakers more quickly on what's working, what's not,
23 what the gaps are, because we've got to just start moving
24 and then make sure we keep going in the right direction.

25 So I think that we can do it. And time is

1 definitely of the essence to get moving, both for the
2 climate reasons that I think we're all aware of, and also
3 the kind of practical reasons of the fact that there's a
4 wave of federal and state funding that's coming. We need
5 to make sure that it's targeted towards communities that
6 need it, communities that have been historically
7 disadvantaged, that haven't had access to investment, so
8 that we're flowing those investments to those places where
9 there's a need. Yeah, I think that's an important piece.

10 MS. GANION: Thank you so much.

11 Heather, I'll turn back to you.

12 MS. GALLARDO: Alright. This is Noemi, actually.
13 We do have a few questions in the Q&A, so we're going to
14 put those out right now to the panelists.

15 So, first, Swapna Kulkarni asks,

16 "How do we work toward bringing technologies
17 specifically geared toward isolated, underserved,
18 rural, or tribal communities to help them meet their
19 energy needs? Are there any organizations or entities
20 we should speak to understand the community needs,
21 and/or is there any specific funding available to
22 bring such technologies to the communities that need
23 it most?"

24 So that actually was more than one question.
25 Anyone want to tackle that one? And no pressure either.

1 Just wanted to offer it.

2 MR. ALSTONE: A way to make sure that we're
3 meeting community energy needs is talking to those
4 communities, and not just once but on a sustained basis,
5 building relationships. And I think that's going to be the
6 foundation of making sure we're authentically partnering
7 and meeting community needs.

8 You know, I think I heard Josh mention, if you
9 know one tribe, if you know one community, well, then you
10 know one tribe or one community. There's not a one-size-
11 fits-all thing here. So there's just lots of conversations
12 to be had.

13 MS. GALLARDO: Thank you, Peter. And actually,
14 we have one more for you specifically.

15 So Lorenzo Christoph asks today,
16 "Today RCAM can only operate as a single controllable
17 entity per MG definition" -- I think that stands for
18 microgrid -- "when there's a grid outage. What do you
19 see as potential and benefits for a community MG to
20 operate as such, 24 by 365?"

21 Does that make sense to you?

22 MR. ALSTONE: You know, I think it's a little
23 beyond the time and depth that I've got available right now
24 to get into that.

25 Lorenzo, we'd love to talk about our micro grid,

1 but I don't feel prepared to answer that one right now.

2 MS. GALLARDO: That's fair. We appreciate the
3 honesty.

4 Alright, and final question through the Q&A is
5 from Claire Warshaw. She says,

6 "Can one attempt to attach successful revenue
7 generating businesses to tribes? Example: I recently
8 visited Sky River Casino in Elk Grove. This new
9 casino may or may not have a tribe associated with it
10 already. It appears that a business might find some
11 mutual benefit in associating with a local, interested
12 tribe."

13 Anyone want to take that one on?

14 MS. GANION: If you don't mind, I'll jump in on
15 that one.

16 So I think it's a really interesting question
17 that brings up the link between climate resilient and
18 effective infrastructure as economy-enabling investments,
19 and the ways in which that nexus can and does need economic
20 development and support.

21 So tribal nations are governments and
22 communities, and they develop their own economic enterprise
23 portfolios, just like the State of California does. And so
24 I think, you know, there are, in California, there are many
25 tribal nations with gaming enterprises as part of their

1 government economic enterprise, and those revenues often
2 are directed into infrastructure investments, just like
3 any, you know, other government would do.

4 And so in terms of like pairing businesses with
5 tribal governments, I think the way to think about it is
6 that with the energy and transportation transitions that
7 are underway, tribal governments are looking to diversify
8 and grow economic opportunities in those areas as a part of
9 what we call the green economy or the blue economy, or any
10 other kind of phrase that you might attach to that.

11 So thank you. It's a great question. And I
12 think the spirit of it is great. Thank you.

13 MS. GALLARDO: All right. Thank you, Jana.

14 And maybe we can call it the teal economy, you
15 know, combining the blue and the green?

16 MS. GANION: I like it.

17 MS. GALLARDO: Alright, so now we'll hand it over
18 to the Commissioners and the panelists to engage in
19 discussion.

20 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Well, I'll take this one.
21 So -- hang on.

22 (Indiscernible crosstalk)

23 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Oh, no, we're being taken
24 over.

25 Well, so this conversation actually got to some

1 topics near and dear to my heart, which are electric
2 transportation and schools.

3 You know, California has about 25,000 school
4 buses. And if all of them were electric and had the
5 ability to give energy back to the grid, we're talking
6 about four gigawatts of energy, so way more than what we
7 need to get through this energy crisis this weekend. And I
8 think the panel really, you know, did a great job at that.
9 Terea, Peter, there was all this discussion about how
10 schools are the centers of communities, and we want them to
11 be resilient centers of community. You can imagine pairing
12 with solar storage, EV charging, vehicle-to-grid when it
13 comes to school buses. And you have a lot of, like, this
14 ecosystem of clean energy investments that you could
15 showcase in schools.

16 And I'm just wondering about the relevance,
17 particularly in rural areas, tribal areas, where I'm
18 guessing that there just will be less salience to this.
19 But I'm curious about your thoughts on the relevance of
20 using schools as kind of these resilient energy systems,
21 including school bus V-to-G in rural communities.

22 MR. SIMMONS: Maybe, you know, Jana can echo some
23 of this with respect to tribes.

24 I think tribes don't -- a lot of tribes don't
25 have schools, so they wouldn't necessarily be one of the

1 disadvantaged communities that's able to really readily
2 take advantage of this. But they do have educational
3 support, they have community centers, you know, and other
4 essential government facilities.

5 But, you know, I think the community centers,
6 target those, that those are much more common. And, you
7 know, maybe more broadly define it, you know, beyond just
8 schools. Community centers, I guess, could be a little bit
9 murky in that definition itself. But if the point is to
10 get people familiar, acclimated to education and outreach,
11 then if you go to each community and you find where people
12 are gathering the most, either, you know, at a young age or
13 at all ages, that those would be the best places to get
14 greater use and acceptance of these solutions that we all
15 want to see.

16 MS. GANION: Yeah.

17 I'll just add that the Blue Lake -- there are
18 programs developed to make those connections more fully,
19 more intentionally. So the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe, as
20 an example, developed a Pathmakers Program that was a
21 mobile makerspace in an electric vehicle that went out to
22 schools and took sort of age-appropriate solar lamps,
23 things like this, to really provide tangible sort of hands-
24 on opportunities for kids to understand some of these
25 technologies.

1 And in our region there are some tribal nations
2 with their own school systems. And then there are, I would
3 say, tribal-serving schools that are not in tribal nations
4 and -- but the focus is on marrying and connecting more of
5 those topics with the curriculum at all stages, you know, K
6 through gray, really. And as we've implemented projects
7 that, you know, tribal schools in our region have been
8 electrified, where throughout their history they had been
9 powered from diesel generators, those are real
10 transformative moments that the students are directly
11 involved in. And I think -- I hope that answers your
12 question.

13 But it is happening. It's happening a little bit
14 organically. And I think that the value of technical
15 assistance hubs is that we could maybe centralize some of
16 the -- pulling together some of the thinking on that and
17 help find some resources for maybe making that more
18 programmatic.

19 MS. ABBASZADEH: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

20 MS. GANION: I don't think we heard that.

21 MS. ABBASZADEH: Hi. This is Sahar Abbaszadeh,
22 A-B-B-A-S-Z-A-D-E-H. I work for Arup, a consulting firm.
23 We're delivering energy assurance services, a program
24 funded by the CEC through the County of Santa Barbara.

25 Through that program, we're offering free

1 technical assistance services towards energy resilience to
2 any agency that is interested in it, including school
3 districts. And we've been working with small school
4 districts to deliver this free technical assistance
5 program. And we run into barriers having to do with the
6 fact that, for example, one school district, the
7 superintendent is also the facility manager, is also the
8 Energy Manager, Probably wears five different hats. They
9 don't have the capacity to engage in a free technical
10 assistance program.

11 When it comes to making any kind of energy
12 improvements in their facilities, they, as Josh mentioned,
13 they have systemic infrastructure issues; right? Their
14 buildings, their systems are old. So they know they have
15 to electrify their school buses, but they have to upgrade,
16 you know, an entire school electrical system or their
17 campus to be able to take advantage of the funding that's
18 coming for electric school buses.

19 So I think these two things, really, we have to,
20 you know, treat them head on in terms of what is the
21 capacity of the school district? Can we find someone to, I
22 don't know, work there, intern there for a year or more, or
23 a full-time employee that can really deal with these
24 requests and deal with the funding opportunities that are
25 coming for them?

1 And then, also, not funding the widgets; right?
2 Funding the entire ecosystem that's necessary to be able to
3 accommodate the solar system, the battery, the electric.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. SIMMONS: Mic drop. Good point.

6 COMMISSIONER MCALLISTER: I also find this --
7 this is Commissioner McAllister -- I also find this
8 conversation about schools very interesting. And, you
9 know, we did Prop 39 in the state, not that long ago, and
10 that was a billion and a half dollars that went to schools.
11 And part of that was -- I don't know, maybe a show of hands
12 who was involved in that, if anybody in the room maybe
13 consulted? Sahar must have been somehow. But part of that
14 was that a certain percentage of the funds would be spent
15 kind of upfront on technical assistance in order to scope
16 the program that then got funded by the rest of the money.
17 So, I mean, that's one model we can talk about. I don't
18 know.

19 You know, to the extent the focus is on schools,
20 then, you know, I agree with the conversation. But we've
21 got to -- there's no substitute for good quality technical
22 assistance. And I think this panel, you know, thanks to
23 all of you for your particular, you know, model of
24 providing technical assistance, and they're all very
25 valuable, But it also just goes to show, like we've heard

1 all day, you know, there's no-one-size-fits-all. You're
2 all different models, you're all doing different things,
3 you bring different strengths, you know, you build
4 different teams, and that's all contextualized in where
5 you're actually working.

6 So, you know, again, I think we need to be
7 flexible. And we're going to depend on, you know, all of
8 you in the particular context that you're working in to
9 tell us how to do it best. And hopefully we can set up a
10 program structure that's flexible and that can actually
11 then allow all those flowers to bloom independently.

12 But I just -- this is my way of saying just
13 thanks. Thanks for another really great panel and all the
14 work that you're doing.

15 MS. RAITT: So thank you, Commissioners. Thank
16 you for those good questions, and to our panelists. And I
17 think we should move on to our next segment, if that's
18 okay?

19 So we'll move on to a Report Out on the Community
20 Connections Discussion over the noon hour. And Akruti
21 Gupta is here from the Energy Commission to speak about it.

22 So go ahead, Akruti. Thank you.

23 MS. GUPTA: Thank you. Hi, I'm Akruti Gupta. I
24 will be reporting out on some of the discussion that we had
25 during lunch. It was really truly a networking hour, so I

1 didn't get a chance to collect everybody's thoughts. But
2 based on the few conversations I had, I wanted to kind of
3 highlight some of what we talked about.

4 So a lot of what we talked about was related to
5 the challenges to implementing equitable practices at the
6 local and state level. One specific point was that we need
7 more educational outreach and need to build more trust
8 between government and community. And so this was in
9 relation to the Clean Power Alliance and CCA, and the work
10 that they've been doing. And something that worked for
11 them was to do outreach via direct mail. So I think what
12 it points to is exploring what it looks like for specific
13 communities, what successful outreach looks like for
14 different communities, and trying to utilize that.

15 Another challenge was specifically increasing
16 energy efficiency upgrade adoption among renters. So I
17 think we've heard this also today, the structures of
18 current rebates and incentives make it difficult to include
19 renters in a lot of the building decarb programs, and so
20 figuring out ways to have them benefit from those programs
21 would be useful, and I think it kind of points to a lot of
22 the discussion we have today as well.

23 And then finally, this was related to the energy
24 equity indicators, as well as some of just the data work
25 that's going on at the Commission, and trying to find out

1 how it would be useful to community members and CBOs? And,
2 generally, what we heard today was that having more data is
3 useful to offer as proof or fact-check what's being said by
4 different stakeholders. But a key challenge to that data
5 is making sure it's presented in a way that all community
6 members are able to understand, regardless of educational
7 background or other barriers, so that's something that we
8 want to address as well.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. RAITT: That was terrific. Thank you,
11 Akruti.

12 So next, we'll just, we'll move on to public
13 comments. So if anybody in the room has public -- wants to
14 make some comments, you can raise your hand and walk up to
15 the lectern. I'm not seeing any.

16 Anybody on Zoom who would like to make comments,
17 please use the raise-hand function to let us know that
18 you'd want to make comments. And if you're on the phone,
19 press star nine to let us know you'd like to make comments.

20 Alright. Ben Schwartz?

21 MR. SCHWARTZ: Hi. Yes. Can everyone hear me?
22 Hello? Can anyone hear me? Hello?

23 MS. RAITT: Ben, we can't hear you. Hold on.

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: Can you guys hear me now?

25 MS. GALLARDO: He's on Zoom.

1 MR. SCHWARTZ: Hello? Anything?

2 MR. ALSTONE: Those of us who are on Zoom can
3 hear you but it doesn't seem like they can hear you in the
4 room.

5 MR. SCHWARTZ: Oh, okay. Alright. Well, at
6 least I'm not talking to no one.

7 MR. ALSTONE: Yeah.

8 MR. SCHWARTZ: So I guess I'll just go ahead
9 then? I'm not sure if there's any reason to wait here.
10 Okay, well, I will just begin talking, and I can --
11 whenever I get cut off, I get cut off.

12 My name is Ben Schwartz and I'm the Policy
13 Manager for the Clean Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to
14 accelerating the transitions to renewables, local
15 renewables, and a modern grid. And I'd like to say that I
16 have appreciated all the presentations and the thoughtful
17 dialogue today, particularly with regards to many of the
18 critical facilities throughout our states, including our
19 schools and our school districts.

20 I just came back from a ribbon-cutting for the
21 Santa Barbara Unified School District where the Clean
22 Coalition helped put solar and solar microgrids at a total
23 of 21 sites. And we are hoping that this is a model that
24 can be replicated throughout the state through the various
25 PPAs. The Santa Barbara School District, over the lifetime

1 of the project, is going to save about \$8 million in energy
2 savings, and get around \$7 million in the value of
3 resilience benefits for free.

4 And so I just want to take a moment to talk about
5 microgrids. And, you know, one of the ways that I think
6 the state needs to focus on equity and environmental
7 justice is by providing resilience to communities that are
8 disadvantaged and, you know, have not typically had access
9 to form partnerships with the utility and plan for
10 resilience on their own. I think that, currently, our
11 planning process does not actively consider other functions
12 besides whether the capacity and voltage and frequency of
13 the grid is as it needs to be. We don't consider localized
14 benefits from distributed energy resources, nor do we
15 consider where it would be most effective to have resilient
16 solutions, and that's something that the CEC can change as
17 part of the IEPR process.

18 I would also say that, you know, the CEC has an
19 ongoing order instigating information on distributed energy
20 resources, an OIIP, on a high-DER future. And the Clean
21 Coalition appreciates that that proceeding takes the
22 perspective that DERs will be necessary and at higher
23 levels in the future. But I'd like to say that the most
24 important thing that can come out of that process is truly
25 valuing the different societal benefits that are not

1 currently considered, whether that's land-use benefits,
2 greenhouse gas reduction, as well as the value of
3 resilience.

4 And, finally, I'd like to suggest that one of the
5 things that the state has not considered but that can use
6 as an active tool is specific deployments of DERs, in other
7 words, targeted deployments of DERs in locations where they
8 could be most valuable.

9 So I'd like to thank you for your time, and I
10 appreciate the opportunity to comment.

11 MS. RAITT: Use the raise-hand function. Yeah.
12 Okay. If anyone else on Zoom would like to make comments,
13 please use the raise-hand function to let us know, looks
14 like a high-five.

15 Okay, well, I'm not seeing any more comments on
16 the phone or Zoom, so Commissioners, we can end the public
17 comment. And do you have any closing remarks you'd like to
18 make?

19 COMMISSIONER MONAHAN: Thanks everybody for
20 participating and for your patience around all of our
21 technical issues. The team did an amazing job. This is
22 one of the challenges I think we face. Also my lameness
23 when it comes to a mic, so I apologize so much, but this
24 has been a really great informative day. So thanks to all
25 the panelists, really appreciate your insights, and you've

1 given us a lot of great food for thought.

2 So we'll close it out.

3 (Off the record at 4:59 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of December, 2022.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

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I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

December 6, 2022

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367