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### **JANUARY 19, 2023 - DACAG Meeting Minutes**

ITEM 1 - Welcome and roll call of the members.

Member Attendance						
* Write arrival time next to	member name if I	member is late.				
Member Present Absent						
Adrian (1:55pm)	$\boxtimes$					
Andres	$\boxtimes$					
Fred (1:20pm)	$\boxtimes$					
Jana	$\boxtimes$					
Roger (1:13pm)	$\boxtimes$					
Roman	$\boxtimes$					
Stephanie	$\boxtimes$					
Curtis (1:05pm)	$\boxtimes$					
Elena	$\boxtimes$					
Julia (1:15pm)	$\boxtimes$					
Sahara	$\boxtimes$					

Group **has** quorum to move forward with voting items.

**⊠**Commissioner Houck

## ITEM 2 - General public comment.

None

## ITEM 3 - Opening comments by the CEC and CPUC Commissioners or their advisors.

Commissioners in Attendance:

		15 III Accordance.
•	CEC C	ommissioners
		□ Chair Hochschild
		⊠Vice Chair Gunda
		Happy New Year and gratitude to this group. For the CEC in 2022, reliability and equity were significant areas of focus. The CEC thought through how to adopt an Equity Framework, which the DACAG will discuss today. It was also a year with trouble with electrical reliability, as well as natural gas and petroleum price spikes, so much of which has impacts on communities we all care about. The CEC appreciates the DACAG's collaboration.
		□Commissioner Douglas
		□Commissioner Monahan
		□Commissioner McAllister
•	CPUC	
		□President Revnolds

Thank you for the DACAG's work in 2022. Dealing with many issues disproportionately impacting disadvantaged communities and tribal communities, and the DACAG's work have contributed and made a difference in the CPUC's decision-making, examples of which can be seen in community outreach, distribution planning proceedings, the upcoming SoCalGas application on the Ventura compressor station. We're dealing with natural gas price spikes and continuing interagency, community, and tribal conversations. There has been significant change in how the agencies conduct business from the past 5-10 years and this group's work has contributed to that. Looking forward to continued partnership.

$\square \textbf{Commissioner}$	Shiroma
$\square$ Commissioner	Reynolds

New staff announcements: N/A

### ITEM 4 - DACAG members review December 2, 2022, meeting minutes.

- Public Comment
  - None
- Motion to approve Item 4, the Previous Month's Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2022.

Member who makes	Elena
motion	

Member to seconds motion to approve.

Member who Seconds	Andres

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Adrian				$\boxtimes$
Andres	$\boxtimes$			
Fred				
Jana	$\boxtimes$			
Roger				$\boxtimes$
Roman	$\boxtimes$			
Stephanie	$\boxtimes$			
Elena	$\boxtimes$			
Curtis	$\boxtimes$			
Julia				
Sahara	$\boxtimes$			

Motion	Passes	Doesn't	If not unanimous, include vote	
		Pass	count	

ITEM 4	$\boxtimes$	

# ITEM 5 – DACAG members to review and vote on 2022 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) comments.

• Initially proposed a presentation from Energy Commission staff, but DACAG SMEs were able to meet with staff prior to today and we'll use this time to review and vote to approve.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- Roger reviewed the <u>IEPR Equity Comments draft</u> prepared by Roger with input from Jana
  - o 3 sections:
    - CEC should pursue Energy Justice and adopt the contemplated definition from the U.S. Department of Energy
    - CEC should complete its work on non-energy benefits as soon as possible
    - CEC should maximize the potential of the Energy Equity Indicators Tool
- Appreciate the inclusion of longitudinal data as a recommendation for building on the Energy Equity Indicators tool, to demonstrate not just where we are, but how things are changing.
- Appreciate the broadening of the definition of accessibility to include grid capacity for DERs in disadvantaged communities to affect full electrification and transportation electrification.
- Vice Chair Gunda shared his appreciation to the DACAG for making this a focus, as well as Noemi Gallardo and the entire team in the Assessments division. This will be an open proceeding.
- Letter could serve as a great start for our DACAG Framework conversation

Public Comment (recommended by Renee as letter was shared in the chat after initial public comments)

None

Motion to approve Item 5, DACAG's IEPR Equity Comments.

Member who makes	Elena
motion	

• Member to seconds motion to approve.

Member who Seconds	Fred

Member Votes				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
Adrian				$\boxtimes$
Andres	$\boxtimes$			
Fred	$\boxtimes$			
Jana	$\boxtimes$			

Roger	$\boxtimes$		
Roman	$\boxtimes$		
Stephanie	$\boxtimes$		
Elena	$\boxtimes$		
Curtis	$\boxtimes$		
Julia	$\boxtimes$		
Sahara	$\boxtimes$		

Motion	Passes	Doesn't Pass	If not unanimous, include vote count
ITEM 5	$\boxtimes$		

Dorothy will submit the letter.

# ITEM 6 - FY 2023-24 Public-Interest Natural Gas Research and Development (Gas R&D) Plan by CEC staff who are seeking written comments from the DACAG.

Presentation Title: Gas R&D Program FY 2023-2024 Budget Plan, Daphne Molin, CEC

Notes: See full presentation, linked above.

#### **Public Comment:**

N/A

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- What has the impact of these funds been over the years?
  - o Tend to look at and evaluate at benefits on an individual project level
  - Annual report is available on success of the program; published every 10/31 on the docket and on the website: <a href="https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/gas-research-and-development-program-2022-annual-report">https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2022/gas-research-and-development-program-2022-annual-report</a>
  - Energize Innovation website also provides info on all projects by topic area: https://www.energizeinnovation.fund/
- How much of the funding is for new initiatives vs. further investing in work previously proven, to advance it to the next level?
  - Assess amount of follow-up funding on an annual basis
  - Balance of building off the past, but looking at new initiatives as well; hydrogen leakage, for example, is new; gas stove pollutants and indoor air is a build-on
- Explore ways to expand CalSEED funding for companies to address some of the areas addressed here, and to incorporate equity so that all work done is through that lens?
- Regarding the preliminary research concepts, particularly on fuel-flexible power generation, and looking at reliable performance and engine tuning – will it also consider any environmental characteristics related to emissions?
  - Yes, that is part of the scope. CEC will be addressing all emissions that could impact communities and ensuring that projects meet or exceed emission standards set by the

air quality management districts. This is a primary area of concern and will include climate pollutants.

- In AB 617 work, the proof is the amount by which we reduce the emissions; encourage CEC to fully track and make transparent by each criteria pollutant and climate pollutant, how many tons the investments are reducing the emissions by. Appreciation to the team for this work and portfolio. Continue to ensure we're investing in areas that gain ground for us.
- For methane leaks: many have been captured by satellite imaging. Is that use of satellites part of the research portfolio in addition to system sensors, etc.?
  - Yes, the CEC will be covering satellite measurements. Are looking at technologies from the component level all the way up to the system level, so the measurements will be comprehensive.
  - Through the gas R&D funds, there is also a project of bottom-up mapping emissions from behind-the-meter leaks in the residential sector, as well as a Summation Project conducted by Lawrence Berkeley Lab looking at multi-tiered approaches to capture and map the emissions from different sectors, including residential.
- Appreciation for the research into health impacts of the use of natural gas in the home.
- Discrepancy between the buckets of work: on the one hand, looking at how to use renewable fuels, while also working on decommissioning and using the research to target the most harmful power plants. How much will the reliance on biofuels or hydrogen for blending will cut against the decommissioning efforts? Our recommendation and request would be to use the R&D to get a third-party assessment of the life cycle impacts that they pose. Using direct air capture as an example: environmental justice groups uniformly and massively pushed against the CARB scoping plan, which supported direct air capture. Could this R&D tell us how much a nearby power plant several 100 miles away has to produce to power that direct air capture? Without an adequate estimation of the life cycle impacts, it feels like 2 steps forward and 1, 2, 3 steps backwards, especially with the decommissioning goal. Our recommendation is to focus on clean, non-combustion resources per the IEPR letter and previous discussions.
- On a related note: one project is on GHG and air quality benefits of dairy digester installation. From our EJ allies, we know there are huge local impacts from dairy digesters. Are the benefits outweighed by the local impacts hope this R&D an shed light on that crucial question.
  - Part of the greater effort is towards overall electrification, and really looking hard to fit into those hard-to-electrify sectors. Direct air capture doesn't quite fit into this program, but R&D now has several programs, including the electric program investment charge. Have received funding this year for new programs, and there should be a new one on direct air capture.
- Regarding industrial processes. For years, we've used "hard-to-decarbonize" as shorthand, but
  the sector is massive. How are you drawing the line? Some of it is hard to electrify, but some
  of it might present real opportunities: low-heat industrial processes that might make sense for
  electric boilers+industrial heat pump+clean energy. How is the agency grappling across its
  portfolio with that?
  - Have several new programs: one is an industrial decarb grid support program, looking at technologies that are more amenable to electrification those that are lower temperature, such as food processing. One of the big issues is the high cost of electricity. Don't want industries to leave CA due to high costs, or to pass costs onto customers. Worth considering the co-benefits more in those scenarios, too.

- Then there are other industries, such as cement, which are very high temperature; those are very difficult to electrify. Could include looking at different materials that could be worked with in lower temperatures, or looking at industrial heat pumps, such as those used in Europe.
- In the CARB scoping plan, for some of the high-temp, hard-to-electrify industries, carbon capture has been discussed, but there's also the concern about perpetuating the use of fossil fuels. So we're looking at what we can do in new programs to increase performance and reduce fossil fuel use. Carbon utilization is a question could you have other uses for CO2, such as curing cement, or putting it in cement that could absorb CO2 over time. We also have a carbon removal program focused on direct capture of atmospheric CO2, which is extremely expensive and requires heat, hot water, and electricity so looking at the whole life cycle is important. We have to look at the overall lifecycle analysis for impact re: CO2 emissions, as well as energy and water resources.
- There's another \$90M a separate bucket for industrial grid support decarbonization program looking at (1) grid flexibility, (2) decarbonization, and (3) improving air quality in under-resources communities.
- Another separate program: Food Production Investment Program, specifically looking at food processing facilities under the same tenets as the industrial program.
- We need to provide priority consideration to projects that can reduce peak electrical demand. That will be the primary focus.
- Workshops on our strategies and program approach are planned for the February timeframe.
- o Carbon Removal Program, \$75M will also have workshops in February.
- Would love input on all of these programs, including the Clean Hydrogen Program -\$100M – and Long Duration Energy Storage. Workshops are planned for each program; different audiences.
- Recommendation from the DACAG to the CEC to do targeted, intentional outreach to those
  most impacted for feedback in the workshops ensure the right people are there and
  engaged.
- Consider AB 617 coordination; many communities have Community Emission Reduction programs and plans that might have overlap with what's here and the content/audience for the workshops. Could leverage meetings that are already happening – would love to see more of that coordination between agencies and with these community efforts that already exist.
  - CEC would be excited to collaborate on that and to attend meetings that are already happening.
- Incredibly important to get the life cycle analysis right. Don't want to end up behind where we started because we haven't considered parasitic loads in new technologies.
- On the topic of gas decommissioning: in rural, tribal, hard-to-reach areas where the contractors, product, knowledge around electrification are lagging, we still see the need for pilot zonal or pilot site full electrification projects. At first glance, the work seems pretty straightforward, but as we look to DERs and microgrids and the surrounding infrastructure for full electrification, there are still deep lessons to learn in the transition. Urge these pilots to go further sooner than later so we can gain a full understanding. And we need full electrification at different scales homes, campuses, full communities.

- Staff are seeking written comments, which are due 1/31. Are the verbal comments sufficient, plus the upcoming workshops (including <u>Tuesday's public workshop</u>), given the timeline and capacity? We'd have to write and approve them today unless we could work offline and submit past the deadline, at our February meeting.
  - Short comments would be possible.
  - Explored our legal options, including whether or not we could use the meeting minutes as our comments.
    - First option: let the transcript speak for itself; members could make a motion for the transcript of the discussion to be submitted.
    - Second option: members draft a summary of comments (SMEs), could include add'l comments, and bring it to the next DACAG meeting; that would depend on the CEC being willing to accept a late submittal.
    - Third option is for the DACAG to summarize what they'd like to see in a comment letter, and try to scribe it in real time.
    - Fourth option is for individual DACAG members to submit their own comments.
  - Could pull comments apart into different budget year: FY23-24 budget plan has a time clock; but FY24-25 budget has a little more time. Might be able to push the deadline back a few days, but probably not by a few weeks.
  - Could unratified comments be submitted as such, and be ratified later at the next meeting? Could be a "contingent comment" letter submitted by the SME only, acknowledging that it's an independent work product with the hope of getting full ratification of the DACAG. Not delegating authority to the SMEs, so no action needed to be taken today. Review at the February DACAG meeting for full DACAG ratification and approval.
    - Decided to take this route.
    - Priority area SMEs: Gas Transition: Adrian, Elena, Jana. Jana and Elena will work on it and submit with Renee's contingent language.

# ITEM 7 - CEC staff to give overview and Key Takeaways from the November 29, 2022 Commissioner Hearing on California Gasoline Price Spikes, Refinery Operations, and Transitioning to a Clean Transportation Fuels Future.

Presentation Title: <u>Overview and Key Takeaways from the November 29, 2022, Commissioner Hearing on California Gasoline Price Spikes, Refinery Operations, and Transitioning to a Clean Transportation Fuels Future</u>, Amanda Bourdet, CEC

Notes (see full presentation linked above):

- November 29 informational hearing on gasoline price spikes outline:
  - Purpose of hearings
  - Highlights
  - Panel discussion
  - Public comments
  - Next steps

#### **Public Comment:**

#### N/A

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- Elena's takeaways from participating in the workshop:
  - There has always been a gap in CA prices due to causes we can explain taxes, regulations, etc. But after a refinery outage in 2015, prices went up and never went back down. Ever since then, there has been a 30-40 cent gap between CA and everyone else that is not accounted for by the usual reasons.
  - CA has a lower share of off-brand gas stations and the lowest number of gas stations per capita as a state.
  - This issue will be exacerbated as we shift away from refineries more and more over time. Will need some consistency in supply as we transition to minimize volatility.

#### Commissioner Gunda:

- Will bring the Fuel Transition Study as an informational update to the DACAG.
- 10 refineries in CA; anticipate a very lumpy retirement schedule, which could put a lot of pressure on prices. Will be a significant undertaking for the CEC and connects back once again to the 9/6 outages and incredible use of backup generators.
- This transition will be incredibly hard and seriously impact the communities already most impacted; appreciate the DACAG dialogue and insight on this topic.
- Jana's key takeaways from attending:
  - Recommends watching the hearing: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-icB33iPJk4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-icB33iPJk4</a>
  - Accounting for all the price adders in CA, which support our health, welfare, and environmental protections – there is still an 80 cent/gallon mystery differential that is unaccounted for.
  - Feels that this gets us firmly into the realm of profiteering.
  - Refineries declined to attend.
  - As we transition away from pollution-emitting sources of fuel, things are going to get more difficult and we need to be in a position to make sure that powerful actors in this space don't take advantage of it.
- A request to CEC folks: we need info on crude quality. We know CA is running out and we have to frack or extract a lot and mix it with the heavier stuff that we import. Could be a correlation between those imports and the transportation required to get it here and blend it here to be refined. Do we want to be the gas station of the Pacific Rim, where in-state demand is in decline and we may not even be permitted to use the blends we refine here b/c of low-carbon fuel standards; we bear all the impacts and then ship it back out again, again increasing prices. The heavier the crude will be, the more energy intensive it is to refine, which costs more and then creates more pollution oil companies will say it's a trade secret (which it's not they all know, because they sell it to each other). For transparency, we need that info on crude quality, particularly to see if there is a correlation with increasing prices.
- Inexplicable price gap exists only for gasoline, and not for diesel. Possible that there's competition there that doesn't exist for gasoline more to tease out there.
- Oil companies don't engage in good faith in these conversations, which compounds the issues.
   Our low carbon fuel standard is designed to be a boon to biodiesel, and less a push for low-emission fuels. Perhaps a CARB issue, but possibly something the CEC could engage in and look into, to try to fix the problems with the low-carbon fuel standard.

- CEC team that's preparing the transition study is currently considering the scenarios they'll be using and may be seeking input, and will be consulting with CARB as they do so.
- Low-income and DACs are bearing the brunt and the impact of what we're discussing today.
   As we go through the Fuel Transition Study and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels, we must limit those burdens and must do it more effectively and intentionally than we have todate. The intention and plans and policies may be there, but the implementation is not happening; the impact is not yet there. Targeting and prioritizing the areas where we have the gaps is essential (such as EV rollout hit the 1M mark, but low-income communities are so far behind).

# ITEM 8 - DACAG Discussion regarding <u>DACAG's Equity Framework</u> (Energy & Non-Energy Benefits).

Presentation Title: N/A

Notes: N/A

#### **Public Comment:**

- Adria Tinin, Race Impact Policy Analyst, TURN
  - In reviewing the current DACAG Equity Framework, would like to raise the issue of affordability and incorporating it more deeply into the Framework; it's currently only mentioned one time in the Financial Benefits section. It should be considered throughout the Framework and signal that this topic should be looked at holistically.

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- Focus today on the process to update this Framework.
- Do we want to solicit input from other groups not on the DACAG? And would we want more than the 3-minute testimony? Could we solicit written comments, have a public workshop, etc.?
- What did the original process look like to develop this?
  - Took quite a few meetings; a subgroup did some back-and-forth with it across several meetings.
- Interest in the idea of soliciting more public comment and input; having a public process which path(s) do we want to take for getting that input?
- CEC and CPUC reference this framework; it's important, so we should keep it updated. An opportunity to provide stronger, more direct language.
- Would also appreciate CEC and CPUC input on which pieces of the current framework are more difficult to interpret or use – how can we make it more usable/how is it currently being used?
  - CEC: different divisions seek input from the Office of the Public Advisor, and that office may offer this document, as well as suggesting that they seek feedback from DACAG itself. Fuels & Transportation Division comes to mind – used this framework to ground their work in equity; same with ERDD and the Renewable Energy Division, and Efficiency as well. Are now more often going to the DACAG itself, directly.
- It's brilliant in its brevity! Maintain that.
- Should be able to be used when we can't provide written or verbal feedback directly.
- Possible steps:

- CEC & CPUC tell us: How is it being used? Any language that's unclear? Any recs form either Commission on improvements they see because of how they use it that they want us to consider?
- Request public, written comments. How do we do that? (Lots of ways yes, we are allowed to do that!)
- Potential to use in-person quarterly meetings to get feedback from local community groups.
- Likely to be a longer process.
- Written comment period provides more flexibility for people responding in their own time, though it's not always wholly accessible to community members.
- Public workshops?
  - Depends on the specific feedback we want and need: avoid having a workshop for its own sake and want to value the community's time.
- Reach out to TURN and Office of Public Advocates as well as CEC, CPUC staff.
- Roman will put together a specific plan for the February meeting (Julia happy to help if needed). Aim to have this completed and approved by the end of the year; if it's done sooner, that's great.

# ITEM 9 - DACAG Discussion about the 2021-2022 DACAG Annual Report and the preparation of the 2022-23 DACAG Annual Report.

**Public Comment:** 

N/A

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- CEC, CPUC staff were to let DACAG know what documents and information they needed from us.
  - For '21-22: All meeting notes and comment letters submitted have been compiled; ready to be provided to Adrian (Roman to support). (Will need to add whatever from '21 that wasn't in the last annual report).
- May request additional content from SMEs.
- '22-23: nothing needed yet. As SMEs have meetings or conversations about priority areas, share a recap copy Cheryl, Amanda, Dorothy, Roman so that those are ready in advance. June-June or April-April?
- Get clarification on dates in Agenda-Setting Meeting.

# ITEM 10 - DACAG members provide updates and announcements, and may report on and discuss, determine subject matter experts, and review descriptions of 2023 priority areas.

**Public Comment:** 

N/A

### Priority Area Developments:

- Affordability
- Workforce Training & Development
- Tribal and Community Engagement & Participation
- Building and Industrial Decarbonization, Electrification, and Gas Transition

- DER Deployment and Distribution Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities
- Resiliency
- Reliability and Flexibility
- Clean Hydrogen (CEC Priority)
- SB 100 (CEC Priority)
- Transportation Electrification (CPUC Priority)
- Include SB 350-related issues
- Energy Impacted Services (CPUC Priority)
- Lifeline Programs, Broadband, etc.
- Integrated Energy Policy Report
- EPIC

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

- Decided to review individually offline and decide where you'd like to be a lead and where you'd like to be a SME. Email Roman with your selections if you can't attend the February meeting.
- Put this item early in the meeting on the February agenda.
- Leads and SMEs will be tasked with developing the descriptions.
- Request that Dorothy email the DACAG with:
  - 2022 Priority Areas, leads, SMEs, and descriptions
  - o 2023 Priority Areas

### **DACAG Member Priority Area Selections:**

N/A

# ITEM 11 - DACAG member(s) provide update regarding engagement, if any, with the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB).

#### Member Update:

N/A

#### **Public Comment:**

N/A

#### **DACAG Member Discussion:**

N/A

### ITEM 12 - CEC and CPUC staff provide agency updates and announcements.

- CEC Updates
  - Mabel: new liaison from Fuels & Transportation Division. Upcoming workshop next
    Thursday on potential light duty electric vehicle charging infrastructure projects. 9am12pm, remote access only. 20-TRAN-40: Workshop on Funding Allocations for LightDuty Passenger Electric Vehicle Charging Projects:
    <a href="https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2023-01/workshop-funding-allocations-light-duty-passenger-electric-vehicle-charging">https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2023-01/workshop-funding-allocations-light-duty-passenger-electric-vehicle-charging</a>

- Guadalupe: DACAG liaison on Renewable Energy Division; now Reliability, Renewable Energy, and Decarbonization Incentives Division (RREDI). Demand-Side Grid Support Program and Distributed Electric Backup Assets Program are two new programs through the Reliability Reserve. Upcoming workshop: Lead Commissioner Workshop on the Demand Side Grid Support Program and Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program: <a href="https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/distributed-electricity-backup-assets-program">https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/distributed-electricity-backup-assets-program</a>
- o DACAG newsletter is now monthly, with updates coming ad-hoc as needed.
- CPUC Updates
  - No comments today.

### ITEM 13 - General public comment.

**Public Comment** 

N/A

# ITEM 14 - DACAG members determine future meeting format, dates, locations, and topics.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday**, **February 17th at 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

- o Objections
  - N/A
- Possible Agenda Items
  - Discuss Priority Areas and SME selections; SMEs will be tasked with developing priority area descriptions
  - Review unratified Gas R&D plan comments submitted by SMEs for full DACAG approval.
  - Review the plan for updating the DACAG's Equity Framework by the end of 2023

Had hoped for March meeting to be in-person in Humboldt County, which may be difficult due to weather and continuing storm and earthquake recovery – best to hold for a future date. Ideas:

March: San Diego (CONFIRMED – Roman will coordinate with staff)

o June: Humboldt

September: Fred's regionNov/Dec: Coachella Valley

ITEM 15 - Adjourn

Time Adjourned: 4:09PM