

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

[energy.ca.gov](http://energy.ca.gov)

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



*IN THE MATTER OF:*

*Demand Flexibility Research*

DOCKET NO. 23-ERDD-01

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ACCESS  
WORKSHOP

RE: Workshop on Virtual Power Plants and  
Demand Flexibility: Identifying R&D Needs

## **Notice of Workshop on Virtual Power Plants and Demand Flexibility: Identifying R&D Needs**

### **July 18, 2023**

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Remote Access Only

See Attendance Instructions.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a staff workshop to identify research needs to advance the use of virtual power plant (VPP) approaches for increased demand flexibility. The workshop will specifically focus on community-owned VPP models and include a panel session with presentations from industry representatives such as load-serving entities and their technology service providers. Input received will be used to inform the development of future solicitations related to the [Electric Program Investment Charge 2021-2025 Investment Plan](#)<sup>1</sup> (EPIC 4 Investment Plan).

The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted, and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

### **Agenda**

The workshop will include a panel session with presentations from industry representatives and other experts, followed by a public comment and question period.

1. Introduction and Background
2. Panel Session

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<sup>1</sup> [The Electric Program Investment Charge Proposed 2021–2025 Investment Plan: EPIC 4 Investment Plan | California Energy Commission](#)

### 3. Public Comments and Questions

### 4. Closing Remarks

A detailed meeting schedule will be posted prior to the workshop at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>.

## Background

Accelerating demand flexibility<sup>2</sup> is a key strategy for California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the state's climate and clean energy goals reliably and affordably. Virtual Power Plants are a portfolio of distributed energy resources such as smart thermostats, rooftop solar PV, EVs, batteries, and smart water heaters that are actively controlled to provide benefits to the power system, consumers, and the environment. These resources have the potential to provide the same reliability as conventional alternatives such as gas-fired generators with significantly greater affordability and decarbonization benefits,<sup>3</sup> but research is needed to unlock their potential.

The CEC's Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) invests approximately \$133 million annually into scientific and technological research to reduce electricity costs for ratepayers by accelerating the transformation of the electricity sector to meet the state's energy and climate goals at the lowest cost. The EPIC 4 Investment Plan<sup>4</sup> includes a topic under the Distributed Energy Resource Integration and Load Flexibility Initiative: Topic 18: Virtual Power Plants with Autonomous and Predictive Controls. At this workshop, staff will host a panel discussion with presentations from industry representatives and other experts to identify research gaps and needs to advance VPP and demand flexibility that will help inform the development of future solicitations supporting this topic area.

## Attendance Instructions

**Remote attendance only.** Participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/83419032245?pwd=WUdhhd043Z3BQc0g2NjlpY1NZQzhSQ T09>
- or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID 834 1903 2245 and passcode meeting@10 and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 834 1903 2245.

**Zoom Closed Captioning Service.** At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by

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<sup>2</sup> [Load Flexibility | California Energy Commission](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Real Reliability: The Value of Virtual Power \(brattle.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [The Electric Program Investment Charge Proposed 2021–2025 Investment Plan: EPIC 4 Investment Plan | California Energy Commission](#)

phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

**Zoom Difficulty.** Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

**Public Comment.**

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=23-ERDD-01>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

**Oral comments** will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press \*9 to "raise your hand" and \*6 to mute/unmute.

**Written comments** may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on August 1, 2023. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 23-ERDD-01 and Virtual Power Plants and Demand Flexibility Research Gaps in the subject line and email to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov).

A paper copy may be mailed to:  
California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 23-ERDD-01  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Public Advisor.** The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email [publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov) as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

**Media Inquiries.** Email [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or call (916) 654-4989.

**General Inquiries:** Email Kadir Bedir at [kadir.bedir@energy.ca.gov](mailto:kadir.bedir@energy.ca.gov) or call (916) 776-0614.

**Availability of Documents:** Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>, or at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-ERDD-01>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Energy Research and Development or Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program topics. To receive these

notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

**Dated:** June 9, 2023, at Sacramento, California.

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Jonah Steinbuck

Director of the Energy Research and Development Division  
Energy Research and Development Division

**Subscriptions:**

Energy Research and Development, Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program