



California Energy Commission

Fountain Wind Project (23-OPT-01) Informational Meeting

Eric Knight, Manager, Siting and Environmental Branch

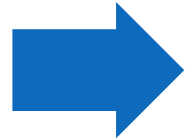
November 28, 2023



CEC Authority

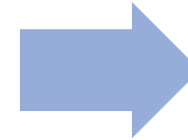
June 30, 2022

- Governor Newsom Signs Assembly Bill 205



October 12, 2022

- CEC Adopts Emergency Regulations

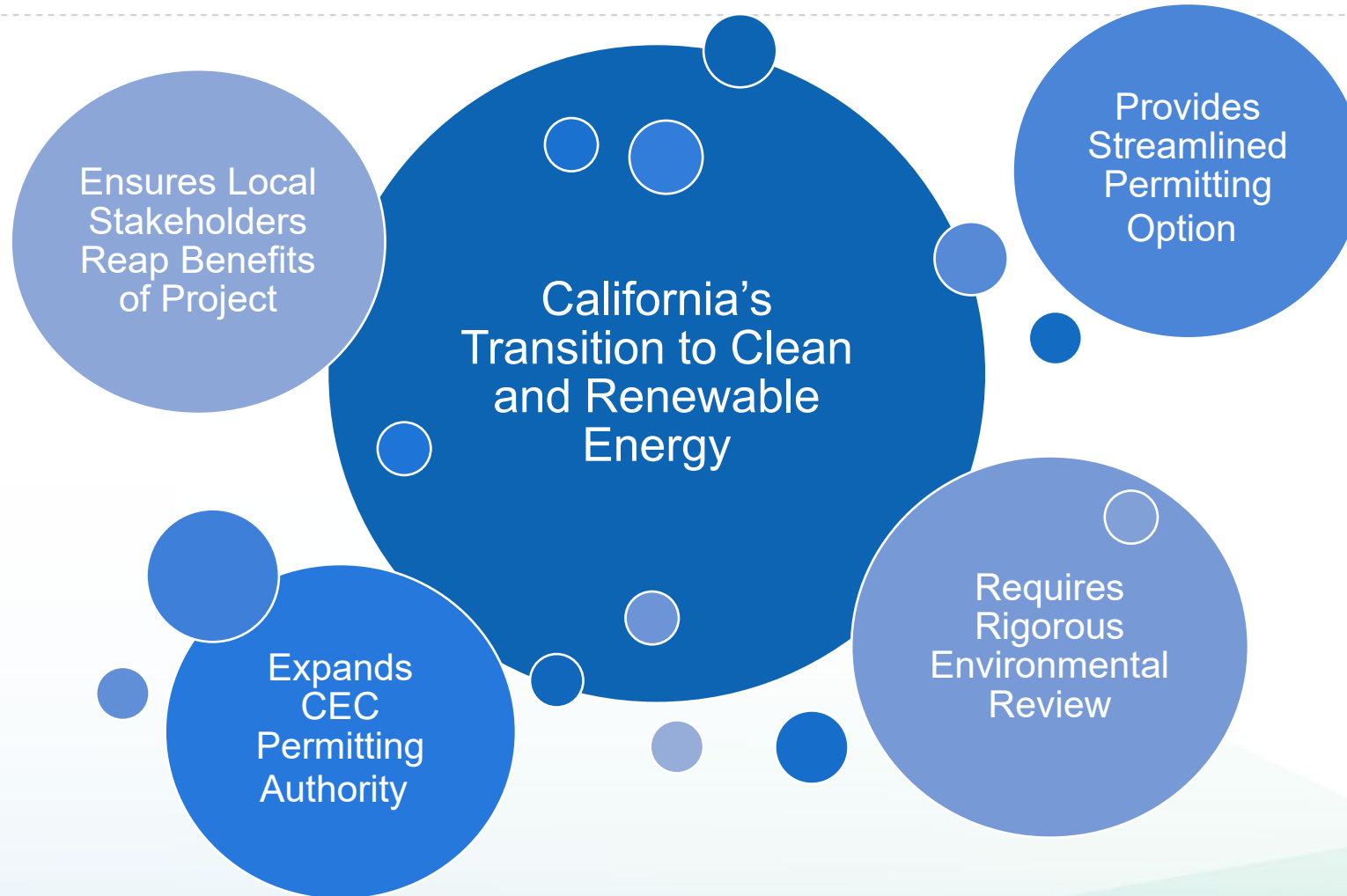


October 24, 2022

- Office of Administrative Law Approves the Emergency Regulations

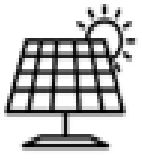

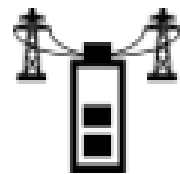


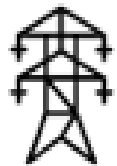


Opt-In Certification Intent





Eligible Facilities

<p>Solar photovoltaic power plant of at least 50 MW</p> 	<p>Terrestrial wind power plant of at least 50 MW</p> 	<p>Energy storage system of at least 200 MWh</p> 
<p>Non-fossil-fueled thermal power plant of at least 50 MW (i.e., jurisdictional facility)</p> 	<p>Manufacturing/assembly facility for renewable energy/energy storage systems or components with at least \$250 million investment</p> 	<p>Transmission from an eligible power plant or energy storage system to the first point of interconnection</p> 



Opt-In Coordination Plans



Source: CDFW



Source: State Water Board



Source: DTSC



Opt-In Process Outline

Pre-Filing Meeting

- 30 Days Prior to Filing
- Docket Established
- Application and Fees Submitted

Data Completeness Review

- 30 Days to Conduct Application Completeness Review
- Additional Information can be Requested
- Application Shared with Local Government, Other Public Agencies, and Native American Tribes

CEQA ++ Environmental Review

- 270 Days to Conduct Environmental Review (once application deemed complete)
- CEC Required Process Milestones



270 Day Process Milestones

30 Days

- **Notice of EIR Preparation** (*Day 3*)
- **Invite Tribal Consultation** (*Day 5*)
- **Informational/Scoping Meeting** (*Day 30*)
- **Discovery Request Due** (*30 Day Turnaround*)

150 Days

- **Draft EIR and Notice of Availability Published** (*Day 150*)
- **Draft EIR Meeting** (*30 – 60 Days from published date*)
- **Draft EIR Public Comment** (*60 Days from published date*)

270 Days

- **Final EIR** (*By Day 240*)
- **CEC Business Meeting Decision** (*By Day 270*)
- **Partner Agencies Applicable Permit Decisions** (*By Day 360*)



CEC Findings Required to Approve Opt-In Projects

Project Provides an Overall Net Positive Economic Benefit to the Local Government

Applicant Signed a Community Benefits Agreement

Applicant Paying Prevailing Wage to Skilled and Trained Workforce

Project Complies with Applicable Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards or Required for Public Convenience or Necessity

Significant effects of the project will be avoided or mitigated, or statement of overriding considerations for significant effects found infeasible to avoid or mitigate



Thank You

**Eric Knight, Manager, Siting and Environmental Branch
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division**

STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov