

DOCKETED

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California Energy Commission **Business Meeting Agenda**

April 10, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In-person at:

California Natural Resources Agency Building
715 P Street
First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, California 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access via Zoom™

<https://zoom.us/> Meeting ID: **863 3538 9460** Passcode: **energy**

Remote participation instructions are below, after the agenda items.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) aims to begin the business meeting promptly at the start time, and the end time is an estimate based on the agenda. The meeting may end sooner or later than the time indicated depending on various factors. Commissioners may attend remotely in accordance with Government Code section 11123.2(j). Agenda items may be taken out of order as needed.

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 20, section 1104(e), any person may make an oral comment on any agenda item. To ensure the orderly conduct of business, such comments will be limited to two minutes or less per person.

Please visit the CEC [Business Meeting web page](#) for more information and backup materials for all voting items at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings>.

THE CEC WILL CONSIDER AND MAY TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Public Comment.

Any person wishing to comment on information items (non-voting items) shall provide comments during this period.

2. Agency Announcements.

The Chair may announce relevant matters to the public and the CEC, including agency updates, events, and other opportunities. Discussion may follow.

3. Consent Calendar.

Items will be taken up and voted on as a group. A commissioner may request that an item be moved and discussed later in the meeting.

- a. Local Ordinance for the City of San Mateo. Proposed resolutions finding the application submitted by the City of San Mateo meets the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 25402.1(h)(2) and Section 10-106 of the 2022 Energy Code. Pursuant to these requirements, the CEC finds the local ordinance is estimated to save more energy than the 2022 Energy Code and the City of San Mateo has adopted a determination at a public meeting that the local ordinance is cost-effective. The ordinance introduces additional electric readiness requirements for newly constructed buildings and existing residential buildings; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) hot water temperature requirements for nonresidential buildings; and source energy compliance margins for all newly constructed buildings by building types. Contact: Anushka Raut)
- b. CALSTART, Inc. Proposed resolution approving amendment 1 to agreement ZVI-22-035 with CALSTART, Inc. to increase the agreement's contingent spending authority to a new total of up to \$84,000,000; increase the current agreement amount to \$61,441,997; modify the terms and conditions; and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additional funding, up to the \$84,000,000 total, will require approval from the CEC Executive Director through an amendment. This amendment will expand funding available for the "PowerForward: ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Program" to fund projects that will promote in-state battery manufacturing for zero-emission vehicles and related infrastructure. (General Fund Funding) Contact: Taiying Zhang
- c. International Council on Clean Transportation Inc. (ICCT). Proposed resolution approving agreement 600-24-004 with ICCT for a \$15,000 one-year membership in the International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance (ZEV Alliance), managed by ICCT. The ZEV Alliance is an association of national and subnational jurisdictions to accelerate adoption of zero-emission vehicles. As a member, the CEC will have the opportunity to participate in ZEV Alliance coordination meetings. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Matthew Jumps
- d. Guidehouse Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement 300-24-002 with Guidehouse Inc. for up to \$20,000,000, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. Guidehouse Inc. will provide support and guidance on the administrative monitoring, reporting, compliance, and auditing support requirements associated with federal funding received by the CEC through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Agreement funding is contingent on the CEC's receipt and continued availability of Federal funding. (Federal Funding) Contact: Reta Ortiz
- e. Power Environmental Energy Research Institute. Proposed resolution adopting CEQA findings for Power Environmental Energy Research Institute's High-Efficiency Mineral Recovery System with Reduced Waste Output project, and

approving grant agreement EPC-24-048 with Power Environmental Energy Research Institute. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Katherine Greenwald

- i. CEQA Findings. Findings that, based on the lead agency Imperial County's Final Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Determination filed for the Hell's Kitchen geothermal power plant and mineral extraction and processing facility, the work under the proposed agreement presents no new significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts beyond those already considered and mitigated by the lead agency.
 - ii. Power Environmental Energy Research Institute. Proposed approval of agreement EPC-24-048 for a \$4,428,021 grant to design, construct, and test a foam fractionation technology system to extract high-purity manganese and zinc as valuable metals from geothermal brine in the Salton Sea region, while simultaneously acting as a pre-treatment to remove interfering ions prior to direct lithium extraction.
- f. City of Long Beach. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-012 with the City of Long Beach for a \$3,300,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 120 Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charger ports and 18 EV direct current fast charger ports to support City of Long Beach's light-duty EV government fleet. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Sarah Birnbaum
- g. City and County of San Francisco Finance Corporation. Proposed resolution approving Agreement ZVI-24-008 with the City and County of San Francisco Finance Corporation (San Francisco) for a \$5,047,167 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install 403 Level 2 EV charger ports to serve municipal fleet vehicles from 17 departments across 36 San Francisco-owned properties to accelerate the transition of the light-duty fleet to EVs. (Clean Transportation Program Fund and General Fund Funding) Contact: Sarah Birnbaum
- h. Contra Costa County Department of Public Works. Proposed resolution approving ARV-24-014 with Contra Costa County Department of Public Works for a \$3,644,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 158 Level 2 EV charger ports and 20 EV direct current fast charger ports at approximately 14 fleet parking facilities to serve the county's light duty EV fleet and fleet transition to zero-emission. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Sarah Birnbaum
- i. County of San Mateo. Proposed resolution approving ARV-24-016 with County of San Mateo for a \$3,625,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 130 Level 2 EV charger ports and 20 EV direct current fast charger ports at approximately 14 fleet parking facilities to serve the county's light-duty EV fleet and fleet transition to zero-emission. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Sarah Birnbaum
- j. Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution approving amendment 3 to

contract 700-22-003 with Aspen Environmental Group to add \$2,000,000, extend the term by one year, and add a newly required Department of General Services contract term. This contract supports the evaluation of applications for certification of energy facilities, monitoring compliance for permitted facilities, reviewing petitions to amend or modify permitted facilities, analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change, and other activities in the areas of environmental impact assessment, engineering, and related regulatory matters. (EFLCF Funding) Contact: Hilarie Anderson

- k. Current Trucking LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-046 with Current Trucking LLC for a \$2,500,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will demonstrate an innovative load control management system and efficient medium-voltage power distribution system at an electric truck charging facility in San Bernardino County. The project will demonstrate the feasibility of adjusting commercial charging loads within local distribution grid constraints to increase utilization of existing grid infrastructure, reduce costs, and shorten energization timelines. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Katelynn Dinius
- l. Unigrid, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-047 with Unigrid, Inc. for a \$2,991,945 grant, and adopting the staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund the design, build-out, and validation of a Low-Rate Initial Production line in San Diego to manufacture advanced Sodium-ion Batteries suitable for residential energy storage with a greater volumetric energy density than is commercially available due to proprietary electrolyte and anode chemistry. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Kaitlin Choo
- m. Gas Research and Development Program 2024 Annual Report. Consideration and possible adoption of the Gas Research and Development Program 2024 Annual Report to be submitted to the Legislature and the California Public Utilities Commission. This report highlights project successes and research benefits of completed and active projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The program administers an average of \$24 million annually for gas research, development, and demonstration geared toward improving entrepreneurial support; building decarbonization; gas system decarbonization; industrial and agricultural innovation; transportation; and resiliency, health, and safety in California. Contact: Angel Moreno

4. Information Item – Department of Water Resources (DWR) Quarterly Update on Strategic Reliability Reserve Investments.

In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 205 (Stats. 2022, ch. 61) and AB 209 (Stats. 2022, ch. 251), DWR is required to provide a quarterly update to the CEC regarding current and planned investments being considered for California's Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program. DWR will present the status of its efforts in response to the legislation and activities taken. Contact: Delphine Hou (DWR Presentation: 10 minutes)

5. Information Item – Update on Data Visualization and Exploration Tools.

Staff will provide an update on efforts to improve data communication, visualization, and public access, including progress made since the last update and expected progress for the remainder of the calendar year. Contact: Jason Harville (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

6. Demand Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program Guidelines (Docket No. 22-RENEW-01).

Proposed resolution adopting the DSGS Program Guidelines, Fourth Edition, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. The DSGS Program, created by AB 205 (Stats. 2022, ch. 61) and expanded by AB 209 (Stats. 2022, ch. 251), provides incentives to reduce customer net load during extreme events to help grid reliability. The DSGS Program Guidelines, Fourth Edition, refine and clarify requirements to improve program effectiveness and add provisions to expand participation from clean resources. Contact: Payam Narvand (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

7. Order Instituting Informational Proceeding (OIIP) (Docket No. 25-IEPR-01).

Proposed OIIP for the 2025 Integrated Energy Policy Report (2025 IEPR) to authorize the Lead and Associate Commissioners and the Executive Director to gather and assess information for analyses for the 2025 IEPR identified in the 2025 Integrated Energy Policy Report Scoping Order. The 2025 IEPR will address the following main topics: (1) advancing clean energy deployment, (2) electricity and gas forecast, and (3) load-shift goal update. Contact: Raquel Kravitz (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

8. Tribal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Planning, and Workforce Training and Development – GFO-23-607.

This solicitation sought to fund projects that will accelerate zero-emission vehicle adoption among California Native American tribes by funding EV charging infrastructure, EV infrastructure planning, and EV workforce training and development. This item includes three projects totaling \$5,108,784. (Clean Transportation Program Funding) Contact: Pilar Magaña (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC). Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-011 with CIMC for a \$2,999,961 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least four EV direct current fast charger ports and at least two Level 2 EV charger ports across two gas stations located on the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation; create an EV Charging Blueprint to identify future build-out of charging infrastructure and fleet electrification; and deliver training to support careers in the transportation electrification industry.
- b. Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-013 with Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians for a \$1,631,523 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt

from CEQA. This project will install 10 Level 2 EV charger ports with integrated solar generation and storage capabilities at the Bi'du Khaale Housing Development in Cloverdale and 10 Level 2 EV charger ports at Wildhaven Sonoma Glamping in Healdsburg. The project will also create an EV Infrastructure Plan for future infrastructure deployment at four tribally-owned parcels located on and off-reservation in Sonoma County.

- c. Aha Macav Power Service. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-24-015 with Aha Macav Power Service for a \$477,300 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will fund the drafting of an EV infrastructure planning blueprint and readiness plan, the development of an EV opportunities portal, and the delivery of training courses related to transportation electrification to members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

9. NORESCO, LLC.

Proposed resolution approving agreement 400-24-002 with NORESCO, LLC for a \$10,550,000 contract to provide technical support services for developing, updating, and maintaining the California Energy Code for residential and nonresidential buildings; developing, updating, and maintaining the California Energy Code reference compliance software, CBECC and CBECC-Res; and developing, updating, and maintaining the California Energy Code compliance data infrastructure, compliance documents, and other supporting documentation that aids the Energy Code compliance program. (ERPA and COIA Funding) Contact: Elizabeth Butler (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

10. Sierra Nevada Cheese Company, Inc.

Proposed resolution approving agreement IND-24-006 with Sierra Nevada Cheese Company, Inc. for a \$5,495,716 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will install a biogas anaerobic digester, a linear generator, and a CO2 heat pump to capture fugitive methane emissions, generate renewable energy, and improve local air quality at a cheese plant in Glenn County. (INDIGO Funding) Contact: Colin Lee (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

11. Direct Air Capture Research, Demonstration and Community Engagement – GFO-24-303.

This solicitation sought to fund projects that will advance innovative Direct Air Capture technologies' technical, economic, and environmental viability to help meet the state's carbon neutrality goals. This could include activities such as testing, piloting, and demonstrating advanced technologies, along with active community engagement, benefits planning, and community education. Projects recommended for funding fall into the following groups: Group 1: Direct Air Capture Research and Development and Group 2: Direct Air Capture Field Demonstration and Community Engagement. This item includes three projects totaling \$2,996,804. (CRISP Funding) Contact: Maryam Haddad (Staff Presentation: 15 minutes)

- a. Circularity Fuels, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement CRI-24-003 with Circularity Fuels, Inc. for a \$1,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's

recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund research into the use of a novel self-heating flow-through monolith for direct air capture of carbon dioxide in Redwood City.

- b. Noya PBC, dba Noya Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement CRI-24-004 with Noya PBC, dba Noya Inc. for a \$996,822 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will take place in Alameda County and will improve the performance of amine-based sorbents used in direct air capture facilities. With minimized oxidative and thermal degradation during each capture cycle, the new sorbent will achieve a sub-5 percent degradation rate over 100 capture cycles and reduce the cost of capture by over 30 percent.
- c. AirCapture LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement CRI-24-005 with AirCapture LLC for a \$999,982 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will take place in Berkeley and will involve the design, development, and testing of a microwave energy-assisted direct air capture system that uses a low-energy sorbent regeneration process. This novel system requires no steam generation and can be powered by renewable energy, enabling it to operate in water and utility-scarce locations throughout California.

12. Build Momentum, dba Momentum.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-045 with Build Momentum, dba Momentum for the first phase of an up to \$17,000,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund demonstration and deployment of technologies and strategies to advance the state of end-use demand response and load flexibility in California's industrial, agricultural, and water (IAW) sectors through the IAW Demand Flexibility Research and Deployment Hub, which will convene California's leading research institutions and research partners. This agreement will initially provide \$10,602,855 for the first phase consisting of four demonstration projects, electricity load profile characterization and IAW market assessment, stakeholder engagement, and technology and knowledge transfer activities, and up to an additional \$6,397,145 may be added, with approval through an amendment. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Matthew Fung (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

13. ReJoule Incorporated.

Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-24-049 with ReJoule Incorporated for the first phase of an up to \$2,500,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will fund advancement of a rapid battery grading technology and demonstrations of second-life EV battery energy storage systems with capacities to discharge at least 100 kW of continuous output for 10 to 24 hours, including a 2 MWh system at an affordable housing complex in Petaluma and a 1.66 MWh system at the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California Reservation. The agreement will initially provide \$1,158,129 for the first phase consisting of preliminary engineering, detailed project planning, repurposed battery certification, and commercial scale designs, and up to

an additional \$1,341,871 may be added, with approval through an amendment.
(EPIC Funding) Contact: Peter Chen (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

14. Lead Commissioner and Presiding Member Reports.

Lead commissioners on policy matters and presiding members on delegated committees may report to the CEC on relevant matters and discussion may follow.

15. Executive Director's Report.

16. Public Advisor's Report.

17. Chief Counsel's Report.

- a. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another person or employee.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss the following pending litigation:
 - i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. vs. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737).
 - ii. California Fuels and Convenience Alliance v. California Energy Commission, et al. (Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000058).
 - iii. Ernest Vardanyan v. City of Burbank, et al. (Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 24NNCV04047).
 - iv. Interlink Products International, Inc., v. California Energy Commission (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000001)
- c. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), Commissioners may adjourn to closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in the following proceedings the state body is required by law to conduct:
 - i. Morton Bay Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-01
 - ii. Elmore North Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-02
 - iii. Black Rock Geothermal Project, Docket 23-AFC-03
- d. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e), the CEC may also discuss any judicial or administrative proceeding that was formally initiated after this agenda was published; or determine whether facts and circumstances exist that warrant the initiation of litigation, or that constitute a significant exposure to litigation against the CEC, which might include personnel matters.

In-Person Instructions

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Public comments are welcomed at the business meeting during announced times. Comments may be limited to two minutes or less per speaker and one speaker per entity depending on the proposed agenda and number of commenters.

If participating via Zoom's online platform, use the "raise hand" feature to indicate you would like to make a comment. The Public Advisor will open your line to speak. Please restate and spell your name for the record, indicate any affiliation, and begin your comments.

If participating by telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute. The Public Advisor will announce the last three digits of the phone number listed and open your line. Make sure to unmute your phone before speaking, restate and spell your name for the record, indicate any affiliation, and begin your comments.

Zoom's closed captioning service will be enabled for the CEC business meetings. Attendees can use the service by clicking on the "live transcript" CC icon and then choosing either "show subtitle" or "view full transcript." The closed captioning service can be stopped by exiting the "live transcript" or selecting the "hide subtitle" icon. If using a phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A full and formal transcript rendered by a professional court reporter will be docketed in the CEC business meeting docket.

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Adjournment. Depending on time and the orderly management of proceedings, the CEC may adjourn, recess, or postpone any noticed hearing or meeting to be continued the next day, another specific date or time, or the next business meeting. Any such adjournment will be noticed at the time the order of adjournment is made. (Government Code sections 11128.5, 11129)