

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	26-BUSMTG-01
Project Title:	2026 Business Meeting Agendas, Transcripts, and Public Comments
TN #:	269348
Document Title:	Final Agenda of the April 8, 2026 Business Meeting
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Kim Todd
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	3/27/2026 1:50:50 PM
Docketed Date:	3/27/2026



California Energy Commission
Business Meeting Agenda

April 8, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In-person at:

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

Remote Access via Zoom™

<https://zoom.us/> Meeting ID: **886 5692 5780** 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. Magnolia Power Project (MPP) Petition to Amend (01-AFC-06C). Proposed order to approve the petition to amend the CEC's certification of the MPP, by modifying Condition of Certification (COC) Soil and Water-6, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This request is to allow storm water to be used at MPP as a water source for cooling. Contact: Joseph Douglas
- b. Sepion Technologies, Inc. (Sepion). Proposed resolution adopting staff's recommendation that Sepion's Manufacturing Expansion project under the PowerForward Zero-Emission Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Grant Program (PowerForward) is exempt from CEQA. CALSTART, Inc. administers PowerForward under CEC agreement ZVI-22-035 and has proposed a grant award to Sepion. The CEC is required to make CEQA findings prior to CALSTART, Inc. executing a grant agreement with Sepion. Contact: Taiying Zhang
- c. BYD Energy LLC DBA RIDE Energy (RIDE Energy). Proposed resolution adopting staff's recommendation that RIDE Energy's Blade Battery Module and Pack Manufacturing Facility project under PowerForward is exempt from CEQA. CALSTART, Inc. administers PowerForward under CEC agreement ZVI-22-035 and has proposed a grant award to RIDE Energy. The CEC is required to make CEQA findings prior to CALSTART, Inc. executing a grant agreement with RIDE Energy. Contact: Taiying Zhang
- d. National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (Sandia National Laboratories). Proposed resolution approving a zero-cost Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) MOU-25-001 between the CEC and Sandia National Laboratories to work cooperatively to advance energy storage technologies through energy storage research and development activities. At the request of the CEC, Sandia National Laboratories will provide the CEC with technical expertise to assist with implementing programs such as the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) and Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Programs. The MOU establishes a framework for how the CEC and Sandia National Laboratories will coordinate to advance energy storage technologies and research. Contact: Caitlin Planchard
- e. International Council on Clean Transportation Inc (ICCT). Proposed resolution approving agreement 600-25-003 with ICCT for a \$15,000 one-year membership in the International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance (ZEV Alliance), which is managed by ICCT. The ZEV Alliance is an association formed by 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 (CTP) Funding) Contact: Matthew Jumps

- f. Community Initiatives. Proposed resolution approving agreement 300-25-008 for a \$100,000 co-sponsorship contract with Community Initiatives, including use of the CEC's logo in co-sponsorship activities. This sponsorship will support the Electric Innovation Initiative's 2026 annual events and activities, including a national awards event, by coordinating and sponsoring key site visits for policymakers nationwide, workshops, and policy tracking. (Energy Resources Programs Account (ERPA) Funding) Contact: Kaitie Choo
- g. Roseville Energy Park (REP) Petition to Amend (03-AFC-01C). Proposed order to approve the merging of the Roseville State Power Augmentation Power Site (RSPAPS) temporary emergency turbines certification into the REP certification. The merging of these projects' certifications would eliminate duplicative air quality and periodic reporting requirements. Staff recommends the merger of the two certifications to comport with the facility being operated as one powerplant and to match the local air district's unified permit. Staff also recommends adopting the finding that this action is exempt from CEQA. Contact: Anwar Ali

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

In accordance with Water Code section 80710(e)(2), 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 leadership will present the status of its efforts in response to the legislation and the activities taken. Contact: Hurshbir Shahi (DWR Presentation: 10 minutes)

5. California Clean Energy Fund DBA CalCEF Ventures.

Proposed resolution approving eleven grants totaling \$5,500,000 from the EPIC program's California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development (CalSEED) Initiative 2025 Prototype Award Competition, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. These "Prototype Awards" were competitively selected via a business plan competition where CalSEED entrepreneurs that had previously received a \$200,000 "Concept Award" were evaluated on the technical and commercial potential of their technologies. These individual grants are \$500,000 each. (EPIC Funding) Contact: Josh Croft (Staff Presentation: 10 minutes)

- a. EELI Technology, Inc., Electrochemical Direct Lithium Extraction for Domestic Brine Recovery, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop an advanced lithium recovery technology. The electrochemical direct lithium extraction platform will aim to make lithium production viable from domestic low-grade sources. This chemical-free

technology could reduce production costs by 80%, tripling recovery efficiency, while reducing freshwater use by up to 98% and eliminating carbon emissions.

- b. OpenRoad Technologies Inc. Unified Grid-Compliance Gateway for Distributed Energy Resources, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to build and pilot GridConnect, a technology that enables batteries, electric vehicle (EV) chargers, HVAC, and other distributed energy devices that currently lack connectivity to each other and to the grid to seamlessly participate in demand response and virtual power plant programs.
- c. Manara Materials LLC. Zero-Waste Materials Recovery from Nickel-Based Catalyst Wastes, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop a modular, co-located, zero-waste materials recovery and refining platform to recover high-purity, battery-grade materials from spent nickel-based catalyst wastes. This proprietary modified hydrometallurgic green solvent extraction method recovers nickel sulfate, aluminum oxide, and cobalt sulfate while reducing energy and water usage compared to legacy technologies.
- d. Navion Energy Inc. Modular Sodium-Ion Battery Systems for Mission Critical Backup, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop a modular battery system that integrates cell-to-pack battery modules with sodium-ion cells, passive cooling, a battery management system, power electronics, and monitoring software into turnkey energy storage solutions for critical use cases, such as power backup and grid support. It uses a highly modular small-format pack architecture that eliminates the need for custom re-engineering across different deployments.
- e. Three Rivers Power, LLC. Scalable Pole-Mounted Utility-Controlled Energy Storage, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop an innovative pole-mounted battery system designed to bring scalable, utility-controlled energy storage directly to the distribution grid. By leveraging existing utility poles, this system utilizes grid-edge storage assets that can be rapidly deployed without land acquisition, complex permitting, or costly infrastructure upgrades.
- f. Calectra, Inc. High-Temperature Thermal Storage for Industrial Decarbonization, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to build a commercial-scale prototype of a power-to-heat thermal storage technology that makes high-temperature process heating cleaner, more efficient, and cheaper for heavy industry. Calectra's thermal battery technology provides process heating for industries including cement, steel, and chemicals by converting off-peak electricity directly into high-temperature heat stored at up to 3200°F in patent-pending bricks.
- g. Wayside. Unibody Immersion-Cooled BESS for Safe Community Storage, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to demonstrate a productized, appliance-like battery energy storage system with patent-pending unibody immersion cooling for the

battery cells with a non-flammable, biodegradable fluid. The cooling enhances system safety by preventing thermal runaway and unlocks advantages over conventional solutions, including all-climate reliability from -40°F to $+131^{\circ}\text{F}$.

- h. Cryodrives, LLC. Ruggedized Silicon Carbide Inverters for Heavy-Duty Mobility, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop a ruggedized inverter and export-power solution for heavy-duty mobility applications, including trucks, trailers, and tractors. It uses silicon carbide-based power electronics to reduce system weight from 150 kg to 30 kg, which makes the system quicker and easier to install while also increasing the vehicle's payload capacity, fuel efficiency, and range.
- i. Gridwave. Drop-In Smart Microgrid Platform for Fleet Electrification, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to pilot a patent-pending, drop-in smart microgrid platform placed over parking areas that enables warehouse operators to electrify fleets without costly grid upgrades. The portable fleet-charging infrastructure can meet temporary or seasonal charging needs or provide charging while a property awaits grid upgrades.
- j. 17, Inc. Modular Containerized Green Ammonia Production System, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop a modular, containerized ammonia production system that converts intermittent renewable energy, air, and water into ammonia on-site at solar and wind installations. This innovation aims to decarbonize the production of ammonia, which is used for agriculture, industry, and other use cases, and currently accounts for two percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- k. Amp Trans. Data-Driven SaaS Platform for Heavy-Duty Fleet Charging, \$500,000. The goal of this project is to develop data-driven software as a service (SaaS) platform designed to automatically manage fleet charging for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The technology aims to connect commercial fleets, charging station developers, and electric utilities on a unified platform to optimize routes, charging sites, and power grid upgrades, preventing wasted resources and reducing uncertainty.

6. Order Instituting Rulemaking to Improve Implementation and Expand Participation Under the Load Management Standards.

Consideration and possible adoption of an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) initiating a rulemaking proceeding to consider targeted amendments to the Load Management Standards (Title 20, CCR §§ 1621–1625). The proposed rulemaking will investigate, evaluate, and implement improvements to data-sharing infrastructure and interoperability, and will repeal obsolete provisions adopted in 1979, consistent with Public Utilities Code §§ 1621–1623.1 and Public Resources Code §§ 25213, 25218(e), and 25403.5. Adoption of the OIR is exempt from CEQA because it initiates a regulatory

proceeding and does not approve a specific project. Contact: Scott McCarthy (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

7. Rural Electric Vehicle Charging 2.0 (REV 2.0) – GFO-24-608.

This solicitation sought to fund projects to deploy public light-duty EV charging infrastructure in rural communities. This item includes three projects totaling \$6,817,803. (CTP Funding) Contact: Devika Singh (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. EvGateway. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-018 with EvGateway for a \$3,213,450 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 36 public EV direct current fast charger (DCFC) ports across at least six sites in Oroville, Arvin, Chowchilla, Arcata, Bakersfield, and Fortuna.
- b. EVGO SERVICES LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-019 with EVGO SERVICES LLC for a \$2,879,503 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 42 public EV DCFC ports across at least four sites in Baker, Latonville, Paso Robles, and Ukiah.
- c. RIVIAN, LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement ARV-25-020 with RIVIAN, LLC for a \$724,850 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will install at least 10 public EV DCFC ports at one site in Gilroy.

8. Paving the Way for California's Gas Transition – GFO-24-501.

The solicitation sought to fund applied research and development to understand prerequisites to, and impacts of, conversion from gas use in the residential and commercial sectors, and to support achieving these prerequisites. Projects will investigate localized challenges and opportunities for gas system decarbonization and decommissioning in rural and tribal areas in California, and develop recommendations for influencing supply chain and consumer decision-making relevant to transitioning gas end uses to electricity or other low-carbon alternatives. These four projects, totaling \$2,998,821, provide an operational complement to analyses focused on physical assets. (Public Interest Energy Research Natural Gas (PIER NG) Funding) Contact: Mithra Moezzi (Staff Presentation: 5 minutes)

- a. Sonoma Clean Power Authority. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-25-003 with Sonoma Clean Power Authority for a \$599,774 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will conduct in-depth, localized analyses of the challenges and opportunities for decarbonization for the Sonoma Clean Power Authority rural customer base, providing insight and effective strategies for maximizing customer and socioeconomic benefits.

- b. The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis campus. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-25-004 with The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis campus for an \$800,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will examine impediments to decarbonizing gas end uses in homes, with a focus on supply chain dynamics. Results will deliver a nuanced, location-specific, depiction of challenges and opportunities inherent in residential gas transitions and identify policy options to unlock electrification routes.
- c. The Ortiz Group, LLC. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-25-002 with The Ortiz Group, LLC for a \$799,136 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will provide new empirical insights to accelerate the transition away from fossil gas use in California buildings by collection and analysis of data to identify persistent barriers at the building, supply chain, workforce, and consumer decision-making levels. The research will integrate physical readiness, supply dynamics, workforce pathways, and behavioral insights into actionable, equity-centered strategies that will directly support state decarbonization goals.
- d. Gridworks Organization. Proposed resolution approving agreement PIR-25-005 with Gridworks Organization for a \$799,911 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will develop a framework for defining, analyzing, and improving the social feasibility of gas system decommissioning in various building types and geographies statewide. The framework will be designed for use by investor-owned utilities, program administrators, community-based organizations, and other energy stakeholders. The project will identify areas ready for transition and design targeted outreach strategies to increase participation where readiness is not yet sufficient.

9. 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.

10. Executive Director's Report.

11. Public Advisor's Report.

12. 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 pending litigation, including the following matters:
- i. Shasta County and Pit River Tribe, et al. v. California Energy Commission (Shasta County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV-0203737)
 - ii. California Fuels and Convenience Alliance v. California Energy Commission, et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000058)
 - iii. Interlink Products International, Inc. v. California Energy Commission (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25WM000001)
 - iv. California Energy Commission v. KIGT, Inc., et al. (Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV018816)
 - v. City of San Juan Capistrano v. California Energy Commission (Orange County Superior Court, Case No. 30-2025-01507450)
 - vi. State of Washington, et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-00848-TL)
 - vii. State of New York, et al. v. Donald Trump, et al. (United States District Court, District of Rhode Island, Case No. 25-cv-39-JJM-PAS)
 - viii. State of New York, et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al. (United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, Case No. 1:25-cv-11221-WGY)
 - ix. State of New York, et al. v. U.S. Department of Energy, et al. (United States District Court, District of Oregon, Case No. 6:25-cv-01458-MTK)
 - x. State of Arizona, et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-02015-TMC)
 - xi. Maryland Clean Energy Center, et al. v. United States of America (United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 25-1738 C)
 - xii. State of California, et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, et al. (United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Case No. 2:25-cv-02574-TL)
 - xiii. State of California, et al. v. Wright, et al. (United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 3:26-cv-01417-RS)
 - xiv. State of Illinois, et al. V. Vought, et al. (United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Case No. 1:26-cv-01566-MS)

- xv. In re Ample, Inc., et al. (United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas, Case No. 25-90817-CML)
 - c. Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the CEC may adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel 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 adjourn to closed session with its legal counsel to discuss any judicial or administrative proceeding that was formally initiated after this agenda was published; to discuss whether to initiate litigation; or to discuss a significant exposure to litigation against the CEC.
-

In-Person Attendance Instructions

Visitors to the California Natural Resources Agency building attending the business meeting held in the first-floor auditorium should proceed directly to the auditorium and do not need to sign in at the lobby security desk. Please note that visitors are solely permitted in the auditorium, restrooms, and cafeteria without a visitor badge or staff escort.

Remote Access Attendance Instructions

Remote access is available online or by phone.

Zoom: Click the link below to participate and provide public comment via Zoom.

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/88656925780?pwd=py3OLuObci5rwPpagkvKQ6l1hefubk.1> Zoom may also be accessed at <https://zoom.us/join>. To join, enter the **meeting ID 886 5692 5780** and the **password energy**. To participate by phone, dial (669) 900-6833 or toll free at (888) 475-4499 and enter **meeting ID 886 5692 5780**. For Zoom technical support dial (888) 799-9666 ext. 2 or contact the CEC's Public Advisor for help at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov or (916) 269-9595.

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing the business meeting using the link or call-in information appearing above, please visit the business meeting event page for this meeting at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings> for the most up-to-date information.

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. CEC staff 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. CEC staff 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.

Public Advisor Assistance. Direct questions about how to participate in the business meeting or requests for interpreting services or other reasonable modifications and accommodations to the Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 269-9595. Requests for interpreting services, reasonable accommodations, and other modifications should be made as soon as possible and at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on the availability.

Direct media inquiries to (916) 654-4989 or mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Subscribe to Electronic Mail Lists at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/business-meetings> to have the business meeting agenda emailed to you. Enter your contact information under “Subscribe.”

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)