

**Proposed Agreement between California Energy Commission
and
ICF Consulting, Services, L.L.C.**

Title: PIER Advisory Board Meeting(s)
Amount: \$197,224.00
Term: 12 months
Contact: David Chambers
Committee Meeting: 8/4/2010

Funding

FY	Program	Area	Initiative	Budget	This Project	Remaining Balance	
09	Electric	General	Projects - Support	\$770,705	\$197,224	\$573,481	74%

Recommendation

Approve this agreement with ICF Consulting Services, LLC for \$197,224.00 to provide (1) support for the planning and management of the legislatively directed Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program Advisory Board meetings and (2) complete research and develop recommendations on methodologies that can be used to evaluate the benefits and value of public research for use for energy research and development. Staff recommends placing this item on the discussion agenda of the Commission Business Meeting.

Issue

In 2006, SB 1250 directed the Energy Commission to form an advisory board to provide strategic guidance on funding priorities for Public Interest Energy Research (PIER). The advisory board consists of representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), consumer organizations, environmental organizations, and the investor-owned utilities. Additionally, six members of the California Legislature may meet with the advisory board and participate in its activities. Through publicly noticed, open meetings, the advisory board assists the Energy Commission in establishing strategic planning goals.

Background

Public Resources Code Section 25620.11 directs the Energy Commission to convene an Advisory Board to provide strategic guidance on funding priorities for PIER. The contractor for this Agreement will:

- 1) Assist the PIER staff in preparing for and managing the Advisory Board
- 2) Provide technical expertise and recommendations to the PIER staff on items to be considered for the Advisory Board meeting agenda.
- 3) Complete research and report on different methods to assess measure and report on the benefits and value of energy research and development.
- 4) Assist the PIER staff in developing and implementing lessons learned in Advisory Board meeting preparation.

The goals of the Advisory Board are to:

- Ensure that the program is focused on public interest research consistent with the goals established by the Legislature (Public Resources Code Sections 25620 et seq.)
- Provide ideas and recommendations for how the PIER program demonstrates the value of public funded energy R&D.

The advisory board last met on May 18, 2009, and provided guidance to the Energy Commission on future investment strategies for the PIER program and ideas on how to improve the PIER program.

Proposed Work

The proposed work will provide support for the planning and management of two Advisory Board meetings (one in 2010 and one in 2011), as well as the development of recommendations for methodologies that can be used to evaluate the benefits and value of public research for energy research and development.

At these meetings, the Advisory Board will be brought up to date on the Energy Commission's PIER program and briefed on selected active RD&D activities, and provide time to discuss issues and ideas considered important to the Advisory Board members.

Justification and Goals

This project also addresses:

SB1250 Warren Alquist Act: Chapter 7.1 Public Interest Energy Research, Demonstration and Development Program.

25620.11. Advisory board; recommendations regarding programs and projects selected for funding.