

Questions, Answers and Clarifications  
Commercial Scale Advanced Biofuels Production Facilities Solicitation  
PON-13-601  
Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program  
California Energy Commission  
May 16, 2013

**Eligible Projects**

- Q.1 For the purpose of the solicitation, what is an existing biofuels production facility?  
A.1 An existing biofuels facility is an existing facility that, as of the application due date of PON-13-601, produces (or did produce) biofuels in California.
- Q.2 Must an eligible project be located in an existing biofuels production facility?  
A.2 Yes.
- Q.3 What is the quantity of biofuels production required to be considered an eligible project?  
A.3 Projects must result in production of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year at the biofuels production facility identified in the proposal. Multiple biofuels production facilities cannot be combined to meet this requirement.
- Q.4 Considering distributed biofuels production trends, would commercial projects with an annual production capacity below 15,000,000 gallons per year be considered eligible projects?  
A.4 No. Projects must result in an annual production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.
- Q.5 Please clarify why the solicitation requires that an eligible project commercially produce 15,000,000 gallons of biofuels per year?  
A.5 The annual production eligibility requirement was selected to maximize the benefits of the limited available funds under this solicitation.
- Q.6 Would an existing biofuels production facility that produces 25,000,000 gallons per year be considered an eligible project?  
A.6 Yes, as long as the proposed project reduces the carbon intensity of the existing biofuels produced and meets the remaining requirements in the solicitation. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6).
- Q.7 Would a facility that produces 1,000,000 gallons of biofuels per year that will participate in a future, regional cluster of biofuels producers that could reach production of 15,000,000 gallons per year be an eligible project?  
A.7 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.

- Q.8 Would a facility that produces 200,000 gallons of biofuels per year be an eligible project?  
A.8 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p. 6).
- Q.9 If a project produces biofuels at one California site and subcontracts for biofuels production at a second California site, are the sites, together, an eligible project?  
A.9 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.
- Q.10 If biofuels production of 15,000,000 gallons per year resulting from a cumulative effort by a regional group of biofuels producers is that an eligible project?  
A.10 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.
- Q.11 If a project produces a combination of gasoline substitutes, biomethane, and biodiesel could it be an eligible project?  
A.11 Yes, as long as the project meets the minimum production requirement of 15,000,000 gallons per year at a single biorefinery.
- Q.12 Is a biofuels project that increases land use and ultimately two different locations to meet the 15,000,000 gallons of biofuels per year production requirement an eligible project?  
A.12 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year **at a single biorefinery. New offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. Please note that all projects must be located in California and the Energy Commission will not reimburse land acquisition costs. For further details, see Eligible Applicants (Section II, p.5), Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6) and Eligible Project Costs (Section II, p.6).
- Q.13 Is a biofuels project with a negative carbon intensity (CI) that decreases the CI of biofuels production by 10% an eligible project?  
A.13 Yes, as long as the proposed project meets the remaining solicitation requirements. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.14 Is a project that converts petroleum to biofuels an eligible project?  
A.14 No.
- Q.15 Is a project currently in the process of converting an existing petroleum distillery to biofuels an eligible project?  
A.15 No. Funding is available for eligible projects at existing biofuels production facilities. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6).
- Q.16 How long does the facility have to be pre-existing?

- A.16 The facility must be a biofuels production facility at the time the application for funding is submitted to the Energy Commission.
- Q.17 Is a project that uses solely waste as feedstock an eligible project?
- A.17 Yes, as long as the proposed project meets the other minimum requirements in the solicitation. NOTE: The use of waste-based feedstock is likely to impact the carbon intensity and therefore, the score. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.18 Would scaling up an existed biofuels manufacturing operation of used cooking oil (UCO) to include brown grease feedstock be an eligible project?
- A.18 Yes, as long as the proposed project meets the other minimum requirements in the solicitation. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.19 If a project adds 100,000 diesel gallon equivalent (dge) of biomethane to a 15,000,000 gallon/year biofuels facility an eligible project?
- A.19 Yes, as long as the projects increases low-carbon biofuels production, reduces carbon intensity of existing low-carbon biofuels production, or both. All projects must result in an annual production, after grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons from a single biorefinery. Scoring criteria will provide preferences to projects with higher levels of biofuels production and/or lower carbon intensities. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6).
- Q.20 The solicitation lists biomethane as an eligible biofuel. Is a biogas plant focused exclusively on reducing CI of existing biofuels (i.e., ethanol or biodiesel) an eligible project?
- A.20 Eligible facility construction costs under this solicitation are limited to the existing biofuels production facility that is proposed to produce low-carbon biofuels of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year. Therefore, biogas plants located at, and connected to, the existing biofuels production facility are eligible project costs. **New offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. For further details, see Addendum 3.
- Q.21 If a biogas plant is eligible as carbon intensity (CI) reduction technology, can feedstock be solely waste from biofuels production process?
- A.21 Yes, if the proposed project meets the other solicitation requirements, use of a biofuels production waste is an eligible feedstock. NOTE: The use of waste-based feedstock is likely to impact the CI and therefore, the score. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.22 Is a planned, albeit, not built, commercial biofuels plant an eligible project?
- A.22 No. The solicitation is restricted to existing biofuels facilities. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.23 Is a planned, albeit, not built, green field biofuels facilities an eligible project?

- A.23 No. The solicitation is restricted to existing biofuels facilities. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).
- Q.24 Please clarify if biofuel co-products are an eligible project?
- A.24 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.
- Q.25 Does a project have to be for on-road transportation fuels?
- A.25 Eligible biofuels production must be designated and produced for on-road vehicle use. Biofuels production for off-road uses (e.g., aviation or marine applications) are not eligible and do not count towards meeting the minimum annual production of 15,000,000 gallons.
- Q.26 Does the project have to decrease on-road vehicle emissions?
- A.26 Eligible projects must increase low-carbon biofuels production, reduce carbon intensity of existing low-carbon biofuels production, or both. All projects must result in an annual production, after grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons from a single biorefinery. **Applications are not required to calculate on-road vehicle emission impacts.**
- Q.27 Please clarify about the solicitation's statements that the project must mitigate on-road transportation fuels; does this mean we have to control the fuel's end use (i.e., fueling station, vs. natural gas grid vs. pipeline)?
- A.27 Eligible biofuels production must be designated and produced for on-road vehicle use. Biofuels production for off-road uses are not eligible and do not count towards meeting the minimum annual production of 15,000,000 gallons. Applications (and ultimately funding recipients) should be able to document the markets of the biofuels produced as a result of the proposed project. **Applications are not required to calculate on-road vehicle emission impacts.**
- Q.28 If a project expands a test facility located outside of California results in a facility in California an eligible project?
- A.28 No. Funding is available for projects at existing biofuels production facilities in California. For more details, see Addendum 1 to PON-13-601.
- Q.29 What standards should Applicants use to determine the greenhouse gas emissions reductions?
- A.29 Applications must specify the potential emission reductions in grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per megajoule (gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ), and must include the basis for the estimations, including assumptions and methods. Applications must show the greenhouse gas emissions reductions relative to the appropriate petroleum baseline listed on the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) website: [http://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/lu\\_tables\\_11282012.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/lu_tables_11282012.pdf). For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5).

- Q.30 We have been developing renewable diesel refining technology and had a small test production facility in Marina, CA. We never sold fuel from this facility as we did not have our EPA FFARS79 certificate until this January 2013. We are now looking to expand from test scale to full scale and have found suitable a property near Soledad, CA for our expansion. Is this kind of expansion an eligible project under the solicitation?
- A.30 Eligible projects must be located at existing biofuels production facilities. If you are currently producing biofuels from the small test production facility in Marina, CA and your project is to expand that facility, the project could be considered an existing biofuels production facility. However, if you are planning to construct a biofuels production facility at a separate new site, this would not be eligible under this solicitation. For further details, see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6).
- Q.31 Please clarify whether or not a biofuels production facility that previously received an Energy Commission award is eligible for an additional award under this solicitation so long as the newly proposed project builds upon, and is in addition to, the project previously funded by the Energy Commission?
- A.31 Yes. However, applications for funding under this solicitation must propose separate and distinct projects from previous awards that further increases low-carbon biofuels production, further decreases carbon intensity of existing biofuels production, or both. Funding under this solicitation cannot be utilized to meet obligations required by previous or existing funding agreements. For further information, please refer to Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5). CEPIP participants should also refer to CEPIP Participants (Section II, p.7) for additional requirements.
- Q.32 Are there preferred feedstock supplies?
- A.32 No. However, waste-based feedstocks will generally lead to a lower CI when compared with purpose-grown feedstocks. Projects achieving lower CI will be scored more favorably in accordance with the scoring criteria. Please note that corn grain is NOT an eligible feedstock. Also, if using municipal solid waste as a feedstock, only the biogenic portion of the waste stream is eligible. See Eligible Projects (Section II, p.6).
- Q.33 Are joint proposals allowed that would involve multiple proposers acceptable under this solicitation?
- A.33 No. Applications must be submitted by one Applicant only – the producer of the eligible biofuels. Please see Section II, p.5, Eligible Applicants.
- Q.34 Can we collaborate with an existing biodiesel company that is California-based to produce blended biodiesel which can be 15,000,000 gallons per year?
- A.34 Such a project would not be eligible for funding under this solicitation. The 15,000,000 gallons production requirement is for 100% biofuel, not a blend.

- Q.35 If a project is for a used cooking oil (UCO) rendering facility that produces market grade UCO feedstock for California-based biodiesel facilities, and said facility plans to scale up to over 15,000,000 gallons per year, is the project an eligible project? Additionally, lower grade crude material (grease trap waste) will be produced for sale to California-based biofuel manufacturers.
- A.35 Eligible facility construction costs under this solicitation are limited to the existing biofuels production facility that is proposed to produce low-carbon biofuels of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year. Therefore, feedstock production facilities located at, and connected to, the existing biofuels production facility are eligible project costs. **New offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be physically connected to the eligible biofuels production facility. Please note that the application must demonstrate through a credible project plan (including interim milestones as appropriate) that low-carbon biofuels production/operation will achieve at least 1,250,000 gallons per month at a single biorefinery within 12 months of agreement execution, and at least 15,000,000 gallons during the first year of full production/operation. The application must demonstrate that the first year of full production/operation will occur within 24 months of agreement execution. For further details, see Addendum 3.
- Q.36 Can you clarify the difference between Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions reductions and Total Carbon Displacement? By GHGs do you mean all of the following types of gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride? By Total Carbon Displacement do you mean only carbon dioxide? Something else?
- A.36 ***This answer is a correction to the answer given during the April 26 workshop which referenced gallons in the following:***  
GHG reductions are measured in grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per MegaJoule (g CO<sub>2</sub> e/MJ), not per gallon. Please see Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5). GHG's emissions should include any GHG's for which your technology has measurable emissions. Total carbon displacement is the sum of carbon that would have been emitted by the fossil fuel displaced by the eligible biofuels produced under the project. Grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per Megajoule (gCO<sub>2</sub> e/MJ) must be converted to Metric Tons, based on the energy intensity of a biofuel per gallon (MJ/gal) and total gallons produced.
- Q.37 Do you have a preferred or standardized method of performing calculations for GHG reductions and Total Carbon Displacement? If so, could you provide?
- A.37 GHG reductions are measured in grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per MegaJoule. Links to the standardized method for calculating GHG reductions can be found under Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5). Total carbon displacement is the sum of carbon that would have been emitted by the fossil fuel displaced by the eligible biofuels produced under the project. Grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per Megajoule (gCO<sub>2</sub> e/MJ) must be converted to Metric Tons, based on the energy intensity of a biofuel per gallon (MJ/gal) and total gallons produced.

- Q.38. Does the project need to reduce GHG emissions from/in the end-use vehicle?  
A.38. Eligible projects must increase low-carbon biofuels production capacity, reduce carbon intensity of existing low-carbon biofuels production, or both. Applications are not required to calculate end-use vehicle emission impacts.
- Q.39. If an Applicant, who received an Energy Commission award in the past, is already producing substantial fuel but has not yet reached the total amount of fuel production agreed in the previous grant eligible for a grant under this solicitation?  
A.39. Applications for funding under this solicitation must propose separate and distinct projects from previous awards that result in increased low-carbon biofuels production, decreased carbon intensity of existing biofuels production, or both. Funding under this solicitation cannot be utilized to meet obligations required by previous or existing funding agreements. For further information, please refer to Eligible Projects (Section II, p.5). CEPIP participants should also refer to CEPIP Participants (Section II, p.7) for additional requirements.

### Eligible Project Costs

- A.40. Please clarify whether or not the costs associated with the development of feedstocks are eligible project costs?  
A.40. Yes, costs associated with the development of feedstocks are eligible. Please note that the funded feedstock development activities must result in biofuels production of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year at a single biorefinery. **New offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. For further details, see Eligible Project Costs (Section II, p.6).
- Q.41. Are the costs for equipment used for harvesting (e.g., conventional dedicated equipment used to harvest the feedstock used to produce biofuels) eligible project costs?  
A.41. Yes, costs associated with the development of feedstocks are eligible. Please note that the funded feedstock development activities must result in eligible biofuels production of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year. For further details, see Eligible Project Costs (Section II, p.6).
- Q.42. Can funds be applied to infrastructure improvements off-site at the feedstock source (e.g., a biorefinery not located adjacent to a feedstock source)?  
A.42. No. Eligible facility construction costs under this solicitation are limited to the existing biofuels production facility that is proposed to produce low-carbon biofuels of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year. **New offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. For further details, see Addendum 3.

- Q.43 Can funds be used to pay for activities for electricity cost reduction?
- A.43 Yes, only if the proposed project leads to lowered CI of the biofuels produced in accordance with solicitation requirements. Please note that **new offsite facility construction or off-site facility upgrades are not eligible under this solicitation.** Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. For further details, see Eligible Project Costs (Section II, p.6).
- Q.44 Can funds be used to pay for activities for refining glycerin to obtain a higher market value for the glycerin?
- A.44 No. Projects must result in low-carbon biofuels production, after the grant project, of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year from a single biorefinery.
- Q.45 Please clarify how funds can be used towards feedstock development. Can funds be deployed towards rendering waste oils off-site to make it usable as a feedstock for biodiesel? Or, is the intent to modify biodiesel refining technology to allow for low and high free fatty acid (FFA) feedstock?
- A.45 Feedstock development costs that lead to eligible biofuels production under this solicitation are eligible for reimbursement. Off-site construction costs are not eligible. Note that facility construction costs under this solicitation are limited to the existing biofuels production facility that is proposed to produce low-carbon biofuels of at least 15,000,000 gallons per year. Project expansions must be located at the same physical address as, and adjacent to, the eligible biofuels production facility. For further details, see Addendum 3.

### **Maximum Award Amount and Funding Cap**

- Q.46 If a proposed project's total cost is \$15.0 million would the project be eligible to receive an award of \$5.0 million?
- A.46 Yes. Projects are eligible for 50% of total project cost or \$5.0 million, whichever is less. For further details, see Introduction/Maximum Award Amount and Funding Cap (Section I, p.2).

### **Evaluation Process and Criteria**

- Q.47 Please clarify the substance of the Sustainability Scoring Criteria which as published omits some aspects typically considered important and whether or not an Application should also include the omitted aspects?
- A.47 At a minimum, an Applicant shall address the Scoring Criteria as written in their entirety. Additional sustainability measures may be included as appropriate. For more details, see Evaluation Process and Criteria (Section IV, p.24), Sustainability Criteria, item 9, "sustainability".



## **Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery**

- Q.48 Please clarify the number of copies for an Application. Some documentation can be lengthy, voluminous, and extensive, i.e., an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?
- A.48 Applicants must submit the original application (paper copy) and 6 (paper copies) of the application. One paper copy of the EIR is sufficient. Applicants must also submit an electronic copy of the application along with the original paper copy. For further details, see Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery (Section III, p.9).
- Q.49 Can additional information be submitted in appendices?
- A.49 Yes, however appendices cannot be used to circumvent the page limitations for the project narrative.
- Q.50 Please clarify if appendices can be included? If so, is there a page limit to those?
- A.50 Yes appendices can be included. There is not a page limit to appendices; however, they cannot be used to circumvent the page limitations for the project narrative..
- Q.51 Please clarify what you mean by “New or replaced pipelines” in Attachment L, the CEQA form.
- A.51 This solicitation has no Attachment L. For the purpose of this question, the Energy Commission assumes the intended reference was to Attachment 7, the CEQA Worksheet. The worksheet is designed to help the Energy Commission determine what kind of CEQA review is necessary for the proposed project. Therefore, if the proposed project includes installing new or replacing existing pipelines, this should be indicated and described on Attachment 7.
- Q.52 There are questions asked here and potentially by others that constitute a go-no-go decision to apply for the grant. Does the Energy Commission plan to grant an extension of time to submit the grant application given the delay of up to several weeks from April 19th by the time these questions are answered and posted onto the website?
- A.52 The Energy Commission extended the application due date to 3:00pm on June 14, 2013. See Addendum 2.
- Q.53 How does prevailing wage impact costs associated with the biofuel plant? If the plant has capital expenses, how would the California Energy Commission determine whether or not they are related to the grant and would thus have to also incur prevailing wage?
- A.53 Only the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and courts of competent jurisdiction have jurisdiction to issue legally binding determinations that a particular project is or is not a public work requiring the payment of prevailing wages. For further details, we strongly recommend that applicants carefully and thoroughly review the ARFVTP Terms and Conditions, Public Works -- Payment of Prevailing Wages (Exhibit C, Section 27) which addresses this issue. For any additional questions about prevailing wage/public work requirements, applicants may wish to consult qualified legal counsel of their choice.

- Q.54 Does Prevailing Wage apply to activities indirectly related to an eligible project?
- A.54 Only the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and courts of competent jurisdiction have jurisdiction to issue legally binding determinations that a particular project is or is not a public work requiring the payment of prevailing wages. For further details, we strongly recommend that applicants carefully and thoroughly review the ARFVTP Terms and Conditions, Public Works -- Payment of Prevailing Wages (Exhibit C, Section 27) which addresses this issue. For any additional questions about prevailing wage/public work requirements, applicants may wish to consult qualified legal counsel of their choice.
- Q.55 Attachment 6, Exhibit E, Contacts List. Please clarify the specific responsibilities of the “Grantee Administrator” and “Grantee’s Accounting Officer”?
- A.55 In general, “Grantee Administrator” should identify the person who is authorized and able to address administrative issues arising out of the recipient’s project. (Administrative issues can include agreement execution, amendment processing, etc). “Grantee’s Accounting Officer” should identify the person who is authorized and able to address accounting related issues such as payments, invoicing, etc. (At the discretion of the Applicant). The same person may be identified for multiple roles under the award at the Applicant’s discretion. The Grantee Administrator is the person who is legally authorized by the Applicant to sign the Agreement, and address other legal and administrative issues other than billing, such as authorizing the Monthly Progress Reports. The Grantee's Accounting Officer handles the Energy Commission invoicing and other financial issues and questions. They can be the same person.

### **General Questions**

- Q.56 Please clarify what is meant by lowering the carbon intensity (CI) of biofuels produced, within the context of the biofuels manufacturing process?
- A.56 Carbon intensity of biofuels production can be accomplished in many ways including, but not limited to, changes to lower carbon feedstocks and process efficiencies in the manufacturing process. This solicitation does not describe any particular method to lower carbon intensities as long as the project is eligible under this solicitation and clearly described and properly documented.
- Q.57 Does the CI reduction refer the manufacturing process or the biofuels itself?
- A.57 For this solicitation, carbon intensity specifically refers to the produced Biofuels itself. However, carbon intensity reductions of the fuel can be achieved through multiple methods, including efficiency, technology enhancements, feedstock substitution, and process improvements to the biofuels manufacturing process.
- Q.58 If it is the fuel, how would a producer lower the CI?
- A.58 Carbon intensity of biofuels production can be accomplished in many ways including, but not limited to, changes to lower carbon feedstocks and process efficiencies in the manufacturing process. The Energy Commission is indifferent to the strategy utilized to lower carbon intensities as long as the project is eligible under this solicitation and clearly described and properly documented.

- Q.59 PON-13-601 states that the biofuels production must be 15,000,000 gallons per year of eligible biofuels (diesel substitutes, gasoline substitutes or biomethane). The cost of a biofuel is related to the amount of energy contained in a unit of mass. In terms of megajoules (MJ) per gallon, there is a small difference of 3.6% between the amount of energy in one gallon of biodiesel (124.8 MJ/gal) and one gallon of renewable gasoline (121.3 MJ/gal). The energy contained in ethanol (80.4 MJ/gal) compared to biodiesel is 36% and is considerably greater. However, the energy difference of one gallon of biogas purified for use to generate power after removal of H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S that becomes biomethane (0.143 MJ/gal at 1.013 bar and 15°C) cannot be reasonably compared for this purpose in terms of energy per gallon. What ratios or factors should be used to equate 15 million gallons of eligible biofuels to each other?
- A.59 For the purposes of this solicitation, the minimum biofuels production thresholds specified in the solicitation are measured in actual gallons (i.e., 128 fluid ounces) of biofuels produced. However, under the “Sustainability” scoring criterion (Section IV, Evaluation Process and Criteria, p.24), the amount of petroleum displaced and total carbon emissions reduction will be based on the energy density of the biofuels produced. ARB standard energy densities should be used for the respective fuels that your project will produce and displace, in gallon gasoline equivalents (gge’s) or diesel gallon equivalents (dge’s) unless you can provide a reference to an alternative, ARB staff approved energy density/pathway. For further details, see Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery (Section III, p.14).
- Q.60 What is the production timeline for the solicitation’s projects?
- A.60 Eligible projects must demonstrate through a credible project plan (including interim milestones as appropriate) that low-carbon biofuels production will achieve at least 1,250,000 gallons per month at a single biorefinery within 12 months of agreement execution, and at least 15,000,000 gallons/year during the first year of full production/operation. The application must demonstrate that the first year of full production/operation will occur within 24 months of agreement execution.
- Q.61 What is the maximum number of months to complete the solicitation’s projects?
- A.61 All project activities and expenditures must be completed no later than March 31, 2018. The Energy Commission expects most projects will be completed well before this deadline. Please note that the application must demonstrate through a credible project plan (including interim milestones as appropriate) that low-carbon biofuels production will achieve at least 1,250,000 gallons per month at a single biorefinery within 12 months of agreement execution, and at least 15,000,000 gallons/year during the first year of full production/operation. The application must demonstrate that the first year of full production/operation will occur within 24 months of agreement execution. For further details, see Addendum 3. Funding recipients are also required to collect and submit a minimum of 6 months of production and operational data as part of the agreement.

- Q.62 What is the latest date for when all of the funds have to be used?
- A.62 All project activities and expenditures must be completed no later than March 31, 2018. The Energy Commission expects most projects will be completed well before this deadline. Please note that the application must demonstrate through a credible project plan (including interim milestones as appropriate) that low-carbon biofuels production will achieve at least 1,250,000 gallons per month at a single biorefinery within 12 months of agreement execution, and at least 15,000,000 gallons/year during the first year of full production/operation. The application must demonstrate that the first year of full production/operation will occur within 24 months of agreement execution. For further details, see Addendum 3. Funding recipients are also required to collect and submit a minimum of 6 months of production and operational data as part of the agreement.
- Q.63 When would a Final Report be due for the solicitation's projects?
- A.63 Final reports are due at least 60 days prior to the end term of the funding agreement. The end term of each agreement is determined based on the expected project schedule proposed by the applicant. All project activities and expenditures must be completed no later than March 31, 2018 although the Energy Commission expects that projects will actually be completed well before this date.
- Q.64 For the purpose of this solicitation, how is a gallon defined?
- A.64 In reference to the minimum biofuels production thresholds specified in the solicitation, a gallon is equal to 128 ounces. However, under the "Sustainability" scoring criterion (Section IV, Evaluation Process and Criteria, p.24), the amount of petroleum displaced and total carbon emissions reduction will be based on the energy density of the biofuels produced. Use ARB standard energy densities for the respective fuels that your project will produce and displace, in gallon gasoline equivalents (gge's) or diesel gallon equivalents (dge's), unless you can provide a reference to an alternative, ARB staff approved energy density/pathway. For further details, see Application Format, Required Documents, and Delivery (Section III, p.14).
- Q.65 By when does CEQA compliance need to be obtained?
- A.65 CEQA compliance documentation must be completed and submitted to the Energy Commission by December 31, 2013. The Energy Commission reserves the right to cancel proposed awards that do not meet this CEQA compliance deadline.
- Q.66 What is the source for the State of California's future aggregate transportation fuels demand targets?
- A.66 The State of California currently consumes approximately 16 billion gallons of gasoline and 3 billion gallons of diesel annually. The State's policy goal for Biofuels production is to produce 40% of the State's total consumption within the State by 2020.